THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

REGISTERED No. 44.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY.

VOLUME XXVII. NUMBER 5. CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1880.

Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8.
MOFUSSIL.....13-4.

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 26TH JANUARY.

A BRISK warfare is going on in England regarding India. Ex-Governors, ex-members of the Governor-General's Council, members of the Indian Council, members of the Famine Commission, and other high functionaries lately or at present connected with India, are carrying on an active correspondence in the columns of the London papers, particularly the *Times*, respecting Indian matters. We have noticed some of these communications in previous issues and also in another column in this issue. There is a bold letter in the *Times* from Mr. C. A. Elliot regarding the Famine in the N. W. P. in 1878. We think he would have done well if he had not rushed into print. His loyalty to his chief, Sir George Couper, has probably led him to indite the letter, but what does he prove? He simply begs the question. He cannot controvert the dreadful mortality from starvation in the North-West, but says, "when we recollect that the most strenuous exertions in Bombay and most lavish expenditure in Madras, did not avert a still greater mortality, it seems gratuitous to attribute the increase in the North-West Provinces to the neglect and cruelty of the Government." To what extent Sir George Couper neglected his duty the correspondence which ensued on Mr. Knight's exposure of the scenes of horror in the N. W. P. had made clear, and Mr. Elliot would have acted wisely by throwing a veil over the past. We notice the subject at length in another column.

WE GIVE the following summary of a letter, which we have received from a correspondent:

We notice with regret that a clerk of the Deputy Commissioner's office at Sylhet, who amongst others of the Treasury branch of the office had to attend to duty on a close holiday under special orders, has been dismissed from the service for taking the liberty to smoke his huka in the office. The victim states that he smoked in the compound of the office but the Deputy Commissioner's order gives it in the office where the offence was committed. We take the latter statement to be correct. The man appealed against the order to the Chief Commissioner of Assam and afterwards to the Government of India. Both the authorities declined to interfere with the order, evidently on the ground that it is not good policy to interfere with the proceedings of district authorities. The punishment, we need scarcely say is out of all proportion to the offence. The Deputy Commissioner in his order of dismissal lays stress on the fact of an existing order of Government, prohibiting the use of hukas in public offices and that his amlah treat orders with contempt; disobedience of orders for a public officer we take to be a grave offence, but we take the liberty to enquire whether the Deputy Commissioner had good reasons to believe that the orders referred to by him were well known to his amlah. The Deputy Commissioner makes mention of an instance in which he found a man smoking a huka in one of the offices and he did not punish him, but did he quietly pass over the offence or take any notice of it to warn his amlah? In the order which provided for the appointment of a new hand in the place of the dismissed amlah, the Deputy Commissioner laid particular stress on the injunction that the substitute shall not be a native of Sylhet, but that he should be either a Brahmin or Mussulman. Again in a Resolution of the Chief Commissioner published in the *Assam Gazette* stress is laid on the local patriotism and parochialism of the inhabitants of Sylhet, and their hostility to Europeans, and reference is made to the fact that people of the Saha caste has for long held a strong predominance among the Amlah in the district offices. The local papers, it is said, is also owned by this caste and consequently difficulty is felt in dealing with inefficient and corrupt officials. Do not these facts and proceedings raise a suspicion that the measure taken in reference to the smoking case is in pursuance of a policy determined to be adopted in respect of a particular class of people? The victim in the case under notice is one of the Saha caste. What became of the Government resolution with reference to the removal of clerks and others?

WE HAVE received the following communication arent the new Road Cess Bill:

"I am not one of those that are opposed to the Road Cess, on the contrary I believe, that it was a very wise step that the Government of Sir George Campbell took in first introducing it. Though it cannot be said that the money, thus realized from the people, has been always usefully spent, it must be admitted that many useful roads owe their existence to this cess. But while the people have in these roads, got better means of communication than existed before, they have, very often, suffered greatly from the obstructed drainage caused by the new roads. The evils caused by the Railway and other roads, constructed on large scales are well known to the public through the labours of our late lamented countryman, the Honorable Rajah Degumber Mitter C. S. I. If you come to examine the village roads, constructed out of the RoadCess Funds, you will find that in their cases, the drainage requirements are seldom properly attended to. The persons who build these roads are, not only, very ignorant of the rules of sanitation and drainage, but are also very poor as regards the means at their disposal having small sums with which they are required to construct comparatively large roads. Moreover, it is not sufficient that a road has passages for the water to pass through, unless the levels of the country are properly attended to and all obstructions to drainage removed. As the temptation on the part of the villagers and the authorities for constructing new roads is generally very great, some provision should be made in the new Act, which would serve as a check and secure against the evils which are sure to follow from obstructed drainage.

Another and a more important, because more near, matter in which I would claim your support on behalf of the ryots, is this. In former times there was no want of supply of good drinking water throughout Bengal. Numberless rivers and khals ran through these alluvial plains at all times of the year. And in addition to these the liberality of the Hindu Rajahs supplied the people with large and beautiful tanks. Now, as the country is grown old, the natural supplies have diminished—the rivers and khals have silted up—and the artificial reservoirs, in the shape of tanks and dighees, have deteriorated and become unfit for use. The consequence of this has been that villages, which once were proverbially healthy, now suffer annually, during the dry season, from cholera and other epidemic diseases. The increase of roads which has taken place under the Road Cess Act, has, as has been shewn above added to this unhealthiness. An increase in the number of khals would no doubt produce better results. But khals are not only very expensive but are also very difficult to make and there are few khals, which have been cut, which contain good and wholesome water during the hottest months of the dry season. Now, you cannot do so much good to the ryots by constructing roads and khals as you can by digging tanks. But, at present there are no funds for digging tanks and though it sometimes happens that a District or a Branch Road Cess Committee grants money ostensibly for the purpose of constructing a road, but really for that of digging a tank, and making a road with the earth excavated from the tanks, the instances are very rare in which the law is stretched in this manner in favor of the people—who, if their feelings were consulted, would in one voice ask for tanks and not roads. The Road Cess realizations in each district amount to very large sums—much larger than what Government expected at first. If one-fourth or every one-fifth of the annual realizations be set apart for the purpose of improving old tanks and excavating new ones, the blessings conferred on the people would be immense, and in ten years, the aspect of the country would be materially changed for the better, while roads and canals would continue increasing in almost their present rates. A provision should be made in the proposed law for amending the present Road Cess Act, whereby the proceeds under the Act might be available for the excavation of tanks, as well as for the construction of Roads and Canals. Your voice in the cause of your countrymen is powerful and is generally heard by Government and the proposed amendment in the law is likely to succeed, should you see it fit to give the measure your hearty support.

Yours faithfully,
ONE WHO SPEAKS FROM PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE.

Megna, 18th January, 1880.

WE HAVE received another letter on the same subject. As the writer chiefly supports what we have said elsewhere regarding the Road Cess Bill, for obvious reasons we withhold the letter from our columns. We, however, agree with him that a Provident Fund for the benefit of the Cess office employes will be a useful institution.

WE HAVE received the following from our Ranchi correspondent:

Ranchi, January 22.—The cold this year has been comparatively less severe than in the preceding year. It is already on the decline, and ere long we expect the approach of the much-dreaded hot weather.

It has been proclaimed by beat of drum that the annual Fair at Chutia will begin from the 10th February

Five candidates have passed the Entrance Examination from the Hazaribagh School, five from the Ranchi School, and six from the Purulia School. It is strange indeed that one student of the Ranchi School who is plucked in a previous edition of the *Gazette*, finds his name in the last *Gazette* as a Third Grade Scholarship holder, while another student of the same school who has had the satisfaction of knowing that he has passed in the third Grade, finds his name entirely ignored in the *Gazette* of the 21st instant.

Yours obedient
SUKUMAR HALDAR.

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Baddyanath under date the 25th instant says that there was a furious hail-storm attended with rain at that station on the 23rd instant. The hail-stones were very large, some of them weighing a lb.

TUESDAY, 27TH JANUARY.

A COMMITTEE has been appointed, consisting of the Honourable T. C. Hope, Mr. Maclean, the Collector of Customs at Calcutta, and a non-official member whom the Bengal Chamber have been asked to nominate, for the purpose of settling the valuations to be adopted for the Customs tariff for the official year 1880-81. The commission on the customs duties, whose report was appended to the last Budget resolution, recommended *inter alia* that the valuations should be revised annually by a committee. This is the work to be undertaken now.

THE LONDON STATESMAN has the following on electric light:

The capabilities of the electric light, as an illuminator of streets and buildings, are being gradually developed. One of the chief obstacles that presented itself to the promoters of electric lighting was the supposed impossibility of supplying more than an extremely limited number of lights from one generator. This has been got over in an unexpected manner by the experts having charge of the lighting of the Thames Embankment, who now, from their shed at Charing-cross, and without an increase of the engine-power considered necessary for the first dozen lights, illuminate the entire Embankment, from Blackfriars to Westminister, as well as Waterloo Bridge. Nay, more, they have laid their wires to the Victoria Station of the Underground Railway, and filled the place with a flood of light such as travellers by that route do not enjoy even at noon of a summer day. In this they have anticipated the discovery which more than a year ago, we were told by the New York press in characteristically modest language, Mr. Edison was about to reveal, and have paved the way to a wide extension of the use of the electric light. Though Mr. Edison has not quite fulfilled the expectations created by his admirers, he has not been idle, and simultaneously with the discovery made in connection with the London electric lights, comes the announcement that the American inventor claims to have devised an effective and cheap electric lamp, which is described as "a complete substitute for gas for household use." The peculiarity about this lamp is, that its light is produced by the heating to incandescence of a heap of carbon made from charred paper, and enclosed in a small glass globe from which the air has been exhausted. The lamp, we are told, will cost only one shilling. This is cheap enough in all conscience, but until a supply of electricity, at a more moderate rate, be provided, the lamp is not likely to find its way into many households. It may be well to explain, too, that, so far, the lamp has not been publicly exhibited, and that we depend for our knowledge of its capabilities and construction upon the communications of Mr. Edison's privileged friends.

IN ORDER to multiply and strengthen relations with Egypt, the Russian Steam Company intends starting a regular weekly steamer from Odessa to Alexandria, which will always touch at Constantinople, and alternately call at Syria and Smyrna.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY has written the following letter to the Raja of Nabha:

MY FRIEND,—The auxiliary troops which were furnished by your Highness to co-operate with the Imperial forces in the recent military operations in Afghanistan have returned to the frontier, and I desire to convey to your Highness my high appreciation of the services which they have rendered. The steadiness and fidelity with which your soldiers performed their duty throughout the campaign have elicited high commendation from the officers in command of the British force employed in the same operations. Their state of discipline and general behaviour reflect great credit on your Highness's troops taken in the recent operations and I trust that your Highness will communicate these expressions of my approval to the officers and men who formed your Highness's contingent.

A TERRIBLE disaster happened on the night of the 28th December last at the Tay Bridge, Dundee, during the height of a furious gale which swept over that place. At few minutes after seven o'clock a passenger train from Edinburgh, conveying, it is said, upwards of ninety persons, was signalled from the Fife side; it was seen running along the rails, when suddenly flash of fire was observed, and the train went over into the river. A subsequent exploration by the railway officials revealed that centre arches of the bridge had given way. Divers were at work recovering the bodies.

THE GALE also extended to England. In Manchester the streets were flooded, and the gas supply in many houses was temporalily stopped. The water rose in the low-lying districts to the level of the ground floors, and great alarm was felt lest the new drainage works, constructed at great cost, should not stand the pressure of the flood.

GENERAL COUNT PAUL IGNATIEF died suddenly at St. Petersburg on New Year's Day, at the age of 81. He was at the time of his death President of the Ministerial Committee, a member of the Council of State, and held many honorary positions. His first commission in the army dates from 1817. He was made a general in 1835, and ennobled in 1877. In the previous year he was decorated with the Order of St. Andrew with diamonds. He was a man of great wealth. Though not so widely known as his son, the late Ambassador at Constantinople, he was gifted with a large intelligence, and his wise counsels will not readily be replaced.

WEDNESDAY, 28TH JANUARY.

GENERAL GRANT, replying to an address presented to him at Philadelphia for a delegation of the Universal Peace Society, said he looked forward to the time when a Court recognised by all nations would settle international differences, but he had found that there was not the same desire abroad as in America for such a Court. He, however, believed that the mission of the society would prevail in the end.

MR. GLADSTONE, who completed the seventieth year of his age on the 29th December last, was presented with a birth-day address of congratulation by the Liberal Association of Greenwich, thanking him for his long and eminent public services, and expressing a hope that the result of the elections would

show the majority of the people to be on the side of right and truth.

THE RUSSIAN oculist Skrebizky has lately visited and inspected 26 military hospitals in Russia. He estimates the number of soldiers still living who lost their sight during the late war at about 2,000. Only four per cent. of this number have become blind through the direct action of warlike causes. The remaining 96 per cent. owe the loss of sight to defective sanitary arrangements, want of personal cleanliness, insufficient clothing, and bad food.

THE HINDU of Madras has the following :

We learn from our Rajahmundry contemporary that when Mr. Thorburn, the Assistant Collector went to Bhadrachalam, he made bold to enter the temple of Rama in that place. He was not satisfied with simply getting into the compound but dared to go near the *Mantapam* where the uchavam of the god was going on. When he was approaching this sacred place, one Venkayya, a peon of the temple, begged him to retire and remonstrated with him. But instead of giving ear to these requests and remonstrances, Mr. Thorburn caned him soundly and kicked him with his boots. Then it was the turn of the Ameen who was caned on the shoulder for his presuming to ask the English Sahib to retire. The Ameen is the Superintendent of the temple, paid Rs. 50, a month by the Nizam. We understand that the people of Bhadrachalam addressed several petitions, one to the Collector, one to the Government and another to the Nizam.

Will this outrage go unpunished ?

WE TAKE the following items from the Journal of the National Indian Association :

Mr. Rustomji Hormusji Cama, L. M., Bombay, was admitted a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, having undergone the necessary examinations.

Mr. J. Ghosal has passed the Preliminary Examination for admission to the Inns of Court.

Mr. Mirza Mehdi Khan has become an Associate of the Royal School of Mines, and has returned to India. Mr. B. D. Bose, Barrister-at-Law, has also left England for Calcutta.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to us as follows:

It has been so often said and so commonly believed that the native masters of our schools and colleges are not only not competent to teach English, but also history, philosophy and mathematics. This is the opinion, at least, of all Englishmen and the Rajshahye Association, but the Rajshye College, which two years ago, when it was taught entirely by natives, passed 7 boys at the F. A. examination out of 11 sent up against 6 successful candidates out of 27 or 28 who competed at the last examination. The former 7 successful candidates were taught by natives, while the latter 6 had the advantage of hearing lectures from their European Principal, who joined the College about a year ago, and from some of the native Professors. The great difference between English and native teachers consists not so much in the quality of instruction they impart as in their salaries and—in the color of their skin.

THURSDAY, 29TH JANUARY.

WE HAVE received a very favorable account of the administration of the State of Jodhpore. It affords us great pleasure to notice the undivided attention which His Highness the Maharajah bestows on the affairs of his principality with a keen eye to the advancement of the welfare of his subjects. Maharajah Juswant Sing is the foremost amongst the princes of Merwar, he has entrusted the two important departments of the State to his two younger brothers Maharajah Kissore Sing and Maharajah Pertab Sing, upon whom he, however, keeps a watchful eye. The first has the command of the army and chief control over the police, the second is prime minister. Maharajah Kissore Sing has a thorough and practical knowledge of military business, and has published a work on Drilling ; the army of Jodhpore is drilled according to the directions and instructions contained in this book. The Maharajah makes a periodical tour though his state to see things with his own eyes. One of the important measures contemplated this year is the boring of wells and excavation of tanks for agricultural purposes.

A CORRESPONDENT from Dinagepore writes : "It is a pity that notwithstanding the rigorous exaction of the Road Cess and the Public Works Cess the roads in this district are awfully neglected. The Phulbari Station of the Northern State Railway is an important entrepot for goods traffic, there is a numerous collection of mahajans dealing in a variety of produce in its immediate neighourhood, but the traffic this year is reduced to *nil* almost owing to the inaccessibility of the Station for carts and other vehicles. The two feeder roads, one leading from Putuiam to Phulbari and the other from Sumgur to Phulbari, are in such a deplorable condition that they became wholly impassable during the last rains, and now no merchant would venture to send goods by that route." We hope the attention of the Road Cess Committee of Dinagepore will be drawn to this complaint.

WE NOTICE that the total number of Eurasians and other mixed classes in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, for whose education Archdeacon Baly has framed his comprehensive scheme, is only 2,701. It would be interesting to know what proportion of of the total Budget allotment for public instruction in those provinces, which contain a population of upwards of 40 millions, is spent on the schools intended for Eurasians.

AN AMPTA CORRESPONDENT writes :

"Now that the removal of the Moheshrakha sub-division from Ampta to Ooloobariah is all but accomplished it will be as well to make a few suggestions to enlarge the utility of the arrangement. The manjees and men at Ooloobariah have it now in their own way to make any arrangement that suits their convenience. It behoves the new sub-divisional officer to look to the arrangements which the manjees make to load their boats. They now have it all in their own way to take as many persons as they choose and employ as few crews as they can with a view to large profits. The Police are in the habit of oppressing and annoying the poor shopkeepers, the Deputy's presence at Ooloobariah will check them. The next question relates to the abolition of the Munsiffi of Moheshrakha. The work of the Munsiff will be considerably reduced by this transfer, but for that it will not be desirable to include Chitrospore out-post and some part of Juggutbullubpore out-post contiguous to Ampta within the Moheshrakha Station, as it will I fear overburden the Munsif's file.

ANOTHER CORRESPONDENT complains that there is no road from Culna to Biddipore *en route* to Boinchee station in Bagnapara. Some of the public-spirited zemindars have contributed large sums for a road, but the work has been stopped owing to the rumour of a railway from Culna *via* Bagnapara, for which surveys were made and lines demarcated. But the railway project is in abeyance and no steps are taken to make the road. Surely something ought to be done in this matter.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the following letter from Rutlam :

In your notice of Sir Henry Daly's speeches at Rutlam on the occasion of the installation of H. H. the Raja of Rutlam, you write : " Mir Shahamut Ali is a remarkable man. He has risen to his present high position from Mir Munshi to Colonel Wade on rupees 15 a month 30 years ago." The latter part of your statement is wholly unfounded. The fact is Mir Shahamut Ali was in the receipt of a scholarship of Rs. 35 per month, for proficiency in History and English literature When the late Sir Claud Wade, then Political Agent at Ludhiyana, wrote to the Principal of the old Delhi College, asking for the services of a competent translator for his office, at the earnest request of Mr. Taylor, then head-master of the college, Mir Shahamut Ali accepted the appointment on a salary of rupees 100 per month to start with and was shortly after appointed Mir Munshi on a higher salary. He is a native of Bijnour in Rohailkhund district of N. W. P. and belongs to a respectable family of that district.

His loyal and distinguished services in the Government extend over a period of 47 years, he was highly appreciated by Lord Northbrook on His Excellency's visit to Central India.

THE MAHARAJA of Durbhanga has come to Calcutta. He proposes to entertain his European friends with a ball.

FRIDAY, 30TH JANUARY.

SIR RICHARD TEMPLE made a remarkable speech at the last Convocation of the Bombay University. He noticed many important points of the educational system and University examinations. We transcribe below his remarks on English education and Indian loyalty :

We feel assured that those Natives who have learnt to think through the medium of our language, have been imbued with our literature and philosophy, have imbibed our ideas—are faithful to us, and bear towards our nation that heartfelt allegiance which men may feel without at all relinquishing their own nationality. We believe that the education imparted by us to the Natives, so far from leading them towards disaffection, has, happily, the very opposite effect. We do not disguise from ourselves that in a community like that of Western India composed of so many diverse elements there may be—indeed must be—some whose thoughts are misguided, and that although the masses in all ranks, high and humble, are thoroughly well-affected, there are some who feel wrongly and think amiss. But those few who are thus ill-disposed, do not become so by reason of their English education ; their ill-disposition springs from causes with which such education has neither concern nor connection, and the education must mitigate, if it cannot remove their discontent. But with the great majority education has the result of confirming in them that loyalty which the general tenour of British administration is calculated to inspire. And the higher the education, the more certain is this result. At all events, we have solemnly undertaken to educate the Natives in all the Western learning and philosophy which have helped to raise England to her height among the nations of the earth. We anticipate nothing but the most favorable consequences politically from such education ; but be the consequences what they may, we shall, I trust, persevere in that course of liberal and enlightened education which is prescribed to us by the dictates of our duty as trustees for the people of India.

Nobly said.

WE ARE REQUESTED to publish the following letter :

I shall be much obliged by your kindly inserting the following few lines in your journal and thereby oblige.

Credibly I am informed that some have a false notion that yet I am attached to write regularly in the *Nobobivakar* and take the part of the net profit. But I know myself very well that I have no connexion with the same. Neither I write a line in it nor I take a pice profit of it. Methinks in fact that this wrong notion of the many may create a bad opinion upon me. Consequently I am obliged to write those few lines in your widely circulated paper. Hope that it will be pretty well to remove the prejudice of them. I remain,

Yours truly,
DWARKA NATH VIDYABHOOSHUN,
Editor of the late Somprokash.

WE HAVE RECEIVED a copy of a new Bengali Periordical, entitled *Punchanund*. It is a comic journal. The first number is a fair specimen.

ANOTHER CENSUS will be taken in India. It is said that Mr. C. A. Elliot will probably be appointed Imperial Commissioner to supervise the census operations. In Bengal Mr. Bourdillion, the Registrar General, will be charged with the work.

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MR. PROONE CÆSAR, charged with double murder, has been convicted and sentenced to be hanged.

MR. YULE, late President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, in acknowledging the vote of thanks to him, has written a sharp letter about the tone of the present Government of India. He says :

" I see from the papers to hand by last mail that Sir John Strachey has at last thrown over the pretence of establishing a Famine Insurance Fund from the proceeds of the License-tax. The name even of " Famine Insurance" is to cease, but Sir John is to continue labouring under a " sense of an obligation" to provide the promised amount for this special purpose. It is a pity the assessees under the Act cannot pay the tax in a similar easy way, *i. e.*, by making an effort to establish in their own minds a sense of an obligation to pay it. Lord Lytton, in speaking of his determination to form a Famine Insurance Fund, said something to the effect that previous Governments had made similar resolves, but their resolutions had all ended in a " Bow-wow." In default of a more appropriate title to the new Act, it might be called the " Bow-wow Bill,"

Sir John, I observe, has lost his temper with his critics, and is to treat them with scorn and silence. This is an unfortunate attitude of mind to be assumed by a Finance Minister, for there are few things that accord so ill together as passion and finance. The new Bill bears obvious marks of the effects of this heated feeling, for in it Sir John has gone beyond his critics to scorn the teaching of experience, and the views of all his distinguished predecessors, and the opinions of all classes of the community, as well as those, probably, of the majority of the Council. This amended Bill cannot last any more than the one it has superseded. The form of the tax is the worst that can be devised for a country like India, where no sufficient check can exist upon those who have to administer such a law ; and some of the clauses are so objectionable that no high-minded and justice-loving people could submit to them and be contented. The opposition to it will, I hope, be a firm and successful one.

The country is suffering terribly from the Press regulation. I think it might come within the sphere of the duties of the Chamber to assist the Press in getting rid of them. I notice somewhere—in the *Englishman*, I believe—that these regulations were borrowed from those of some Continental Government. It seems strange that our Government should be wistfully enquiring among Continental States as to their methods of suppressing newspaper correspondence. It leads one to wonder whether there are any other foreign manacles for restraining the liberty of the subject in the recesses of the State Office waiting for an opportune moment to be tested in India.

In overruling the Council upon a purely fiscal question involving a reduction of £200,000 to £3,00,000 of revenue upon the plea that " the safety, tranquillity or interests of India" would otherwise be " essentially affected ;" in appropriating the Famine Insurance Fund to general purposes ; and by other acts of a high-handed and repressive character, it may be said of the Government, what Hallam says of Charles I, that " while he imposed fetters upon the country he himself was unshackled either by law or his word."

The Government of India has created a relentless enemy in Mr. Yule.

SATURDAY, 31ST JANUARY.

MR. B. L. GUPTA has delivered a very important judgment in a nuisance case, the nuisance being noise created by certain copper-smiths till late hours of the night in the performance of their work. His worship thus concludes his judgment :

I hold that no body has the right to conduct his trade after the usual business hours to the annoyance and disturbance of the public or any section of the public, and I think that the defendants have been very ill-advised in not accepting the offer of the complainant to withdraw from this prosecution on the condition that the accused should undertake not to create any disturbance after business hours, convicting the accused under Section 290 I.P.C. I sentence each of them to a fine of Rs. 20, and in default to simple imprisonment for a fortnight.

We hear that the hours of work fixed are from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. This we must say is arbitrary. The men should have been ordered to discontinue their work at an hour when people usually go to bed. We should say that the work should be stopped from 9 P. M.

THE INDIAN SPECTATOR has changed hands. This change is accompanied with an enlargment of its size. There has been a marked improvement in the paper since this change.

THE YOUNG SON of the late Nawab Ameer-Ali, who is studying in England, is talked of as a likely nominee for the next Civil Service appointments. We have reasons to believe that he has the best chance.

THE POSITIVISTS in London, says the *Brahmo Public Opinion*, have set an example to the friends and admirers of the late Mr Justice Dwarkanath Mitter in India. They have erected in their church in London a tablet in commemoration of the memory of Babu Dwarkanath, on which appears the inscription, " The Sun of the East," in Italian. What are the Calcutta Committee about?

THE SAME JOURNAL has the following :

We understand that under a new rule passed by the Secretary of State—service as Pleader will count towards pension in the case of those who are appointed to the Uncovenanted service after practising as a Pleader. A person over twenty-five years of age is not admissible to the Uncovenanted service ; but an exception has been made in the case of practising pleaders who are eligible for Judicial offices up to the age of thirty. The rule states that " the local Government may for the purposes of the proviso—at its discretion add to the number of years, service completed by such an

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officer, the period during which he has actually practised as a Pleader not exceeding three years in all."

THE FOLLOWING statement gives the number of senior scholarships obtained by the different Colleges of Bengal :

COLLEGES	1st Grade.	2nd Grade.	Total.
1—Presidency College	5	5	10
2—General Assembly's Institution ...	1	3	4
3—Metropolitan Institution	2	1	3
4—Cathedral Mission College	0	0	0
5—Doveton College	0	1	1
6—Free Church Institution	0	0	0
7—London M. S. Institution	0	2	2
8—Sanskrit College	1	0	1
9—St. Xavier's College	0	2	2
10—La Martinere College	0	0	0
11—Hooghly College	0	6	6
12—Krishnaghur College	0	1	1
13—Berhampore College	0	1	6
14—Dacca College	0	6	1
15—Patna College	0	6	6
16—Rajshye College	1	1	2
17—Ravenshaw College	0	2	2

THE WRITER of the *Week* in this Evening's *English* has the following notice of the last Trades' Dinner :

The Town Hall was very prettily decorated, and the reception bower at the end, with its handsome carpet and comfortable lounges, was a decided improvement, and gave a finish to the tables. That the dinner and wines good, goes without saying, for were they not supplied by the Great Eastern Hotel? But I cannot say so much for the oratory. Public speaking is clearly an art not much practised in Calcutta, and the majority of speakers last night not only had copious notes, but some few deliberately read out their speeches. In this respect the native orator, Babu Kristodas Pal, set a good example. When once on his legs, he rolled out his sonorous periods in such a fluent manner that some present thought his eloquence was like the river, and would flow on for ever. Mr. Mackenzie, who generally makes one of the best speeches of the evening, was hardly so happy as usual on this occasion, and he seemed to strain after a gnat of wit to supply his audience with a camel load of common-place. The Chief Justice, Mr. Bell, and Mr. R. B. Chapman made the best speeches of the evening, the former making some rather satirical remarks on the way the Secretary of State had treated the proposals not only of the High Court, but also of the Government of India, for the constitution of the appellate benches in the Mufasal. However, on the whole, I must admit that it was a pleasant evening.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications. 1. Miscellaneous Statistics relating to British India, Fourth Issue. 2. Progress Report of Forest Administration in Assam for 1878-79. 3. Ditto. Ditto. in the Punjab for Ditto. 4. Report on the Administration of the Land Revenue Department of the Central Provinces for 1878-79. 5. Report on the Calcutta Public Library for 1879. 6. Gems from West and East, or the Land of Fact and Fancy—a series of allegorical and other essays. By Moulvi Mahummad Hussain. 7. Expenses of the Affghan War. By Lukshmi Narain, Banker and Honorary Magistrate, Barreilly. 8. North British and Mercantile Insurance Company's Book Almanac for 1880. 9. Ditto. Ditto. Sheet Almanac for 1880. 10. Atkin's Railway Service Pocket Book for 1880. 11. Punchanund—a Comic Paper in Bengali, No. 1 for Maugh, 1286 B. E.

WE THANK the North British Life and Fire Insurance Company for a copy of their Book and Sheet Almanac for 1880. The Sheet Almanac is beautifully illuminated.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

London, January 24th.—It is reported that the inhabitants of the province of Kars exhibit a hostile feeling towards the Russians. News of the increase in the German army has been received quietly in France. The *Times*, in discussing the same subject, does not regard the proposed increase in the German army as menacing to peace nor yet confirmatory of recent disturbing rumours, but as a vivid revelation of the terrible condition of armed truce of Europe.

26th.—The *Times* publishes a telegram from Kabul which mentions the scheme for a settlement of the Afghan question. The British army, it states, is to withdraw to Jelalabad leaving the Afghans to elect a ruler and until then the British Government will forego sending an envoy to Kabul. The British forces will occupy Jelalabad and Kandahar pending a settlement, the surplus revenue being paid to Kabul. A violent speech has been made by Mr. Parnell in which he denounced the relief funds, because they did not aid rent defaulters. He claimed a separate nationality for Ireland and said that the landlords must go.

27th.—The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has refused the invitation of Mayor of Dublin to a dinner because the latter had presided at a meeting of the Home Rule Members lately held. Mr. Lowell has been appointed United States Minister at the Court of Saint James. The American Senate has confirmed the appointment.

28th.—Major General Clifford temporarily succeeds Sir Garnet Wolseley at the Cape. The Mayor of Dublin attended the Levee of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland yesterday, which will probably effect a reconciliation. *Obituary.*—Major General Woods, Madras Army, and Major General Boyd, Bengal Army.

28th.—The Ceylon Government loan has been subscribed seven times over.

29th.—It is stated that the Home-rulers in Mayo will start Davitt and Brennan as members of Parliament on condition that they abstain from attending.

30th.—The *Times* hints that it would be unadvisable to hold Herat and Kandahar, and suggests that we should only keep the passes. The Duches of Marlborough yesterday addressed the meeting of the Relief Fund Committee and repudiated the aspersions of Mr. Parnell. A Moscow paper states that General Terkukasow has arrived at Tiflis with the object of discussing the possibility of Russia continuing offensive operations against the Tekke Turkomans, considering the great scarcity of camels.

Berlin, January 29th.—It is intimated that the German Treasury will not resume the silver sales.

Paris, January 26th.—The newspaper *La Paix* affirms that Admiral Duperre, the Commander of the French fleet in the China seas, has been instructed by his Government to occupy the province of Tonking, and that the Minister of Marine and Colonies will ask the Chamber to vote ten million francs for the purpose.

Constantinople, January 26th.—The exchange of notes between the Porte and Sir A. Layard respecting the Mollah affair continues.

St. Petersburg, January 28.—The semi-official *Agence Russe* declares that there is no foundation for the statement that Russian troops are being concentrated on the Polish frontier, and also states that the Russian Government has not offered to withdraw troops from that quarter at the desire of the German and Austrian Governments, as was reported. The only foundation for the reported Russian defeat at Tchikislar lies in the capture of a transport train by Tekke Turcomans.

30th.—The *Golos* advocates a reconciliation with the Poles and reasserts that negotiations are believed to have failed for the establishment of an Independent Polish Kingdom.

Vienna, January 28.—In a speech by the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign affairs, he said that the Austrian policy towards France was pacific, and that France was not threatened by the Austro-German alliance. He added that the relations between Austria and Russia were very friendly.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, Bow-Bazar Street.)

LECTURE by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., C. I. E., on Thursday, the 5th Inst., at 7½ P. M.

Subject: Propagation of Sound.

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy on Saturday, the 7th Inst., at 3 P. M.

Subject:—Distribution of Metals and their Reduction from the Ores.

The Hindoo Patriot

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1880.

CODIFICATION.

THE Report of the Indian Law Commission has been published. Its artistic arrangement is excellent, but its arguments we are constrained to say are not quite convincing. The Commission are not consistent in their ideas of codification. A Code, they remark, means an orderly and systematic arrangement of the rules relating to some well-marked department of the field of jural rights and duties. And as examples they point to the Succession Act, the Penal Code, and the Civil and Criminal Procedure. But they admit that "in its larger sense of a general assemblage of all the laws of a community no attempt has as yet been made in this country to satisfy the conception of a Code. The time for its realization has manifestly not arrived. The rapid changes going on in social relations make it difficult to appreciate the exact extent to which laws of even a limited scope have furthered or retarded progress. The different principles involved in them have not been so wrought out to their final consequences that their ultimate consistency or inconsistency and their relative value can be pronounced on with absolute confidence. When the effects of the special laws have been ascertained by their persistence under varying circumstances, the causes will become apparent by comparison, and the general principles will be established, on the suitability of which to the people and their circumstances it will then be safe to proceed in the work of final consolidation and arrangement." If this is the case, then how can it be contended that the elements for codification in the true sense of the word exist in India? Separate laws exist, and as facts evolve themselves in course of time, suggesting alterations and additions, the necessary modifications are made. But for such modifications there must elapse a good length of time. One or two facts are not a sufficient justification for a modification of law. It is only after an experience of years the practical effects of a law upon the national mind, thoughts, usages and actions can be properly ascertained and appreciated, and caution and consideration are therefore essential to development. The ideas of the Commission are, however, lost in a cloud-land of words. They write: "The impressions received from a study and application of one branch of the law cannot be cast off in expounding and applying another; nor is it possible that really just and philosophical conceptions of law as an organic structure should gain possession of the minds of the community, or even of the legal profession, unless the minor generalizations embodied in particular laws centre in higher generalizations drawn from the elementary truths of human nature and experience." Again: "Nothing less, perhaps, than an infallible prescience of events, together with a power and precision of language not yet vouchsafed to man, would enable a legislature to construct a system of laws involving in all its ramifications no inconsistency or want of adaptation to its intended purposes; but that affords no reason why the inevitable shortcomings should be aggravated by inattention." But is there any "inattention" in matters of legislation in India? On the contrary is there not too much attention, too much activity, from the effects of which the people are suffering? The Commission contrast the difficulties in the way of codification under the Romans in times of old and under the English in India at the present time. They remark: "In India we have not at hand such materials as those out of which the Roman Code and the modern Codes of Europe were formed. The responses of a long succession of jurisprudents, the commentaries of the legists extending over centuries, are wanting. Society itself profoundly altered in external conditions, and subjected to the operation of conflicting currents of thought, is in a state of flux, the result of which may differ widely from the course of evolution of modern institutions in Europe from their germs in the dark ages. We must provide not only for permanent needs but for pressing exigencies of the passing time; yet, in proportion as great changes are unsuitable, we ought, so far as we can, to introduce amongst the materials of the future some constant and stable elements, the virtue of which has been proved by the test of time and of manifold experiment; and which it may reasonably be expected will give a tone and character to the whole system in which they are incorporated. Englishmen, indeed, brought up in the midst of influences which give to them so marked and peculiar a political character, will move spontaneously along lines in legislation, as in other fields of action, determined for them in a great measure by their own history and their law. Their general tendency will be pretty uniform; but this should not exclude the careful analysis of all that the past and the present of English law and English ideas offer for our adoption, the conscious selection from the mass of those principles which promise to be most strong, fruitful and beneficent, and the persistent endeavour to give them recognition and a governing influence throughout the fragmentary legislation to which for some time and for some purposes we are confined." But the conditions of Indian society being so different from those of English society the same laws that are applicable to the latter are not necessarily applicable to the former. It is because this differentiation in the actual conditions of society in England and India is not always practically recognized by our legislators, Indian legislation is so faulty and gives rise to so much discord and dissatisfaction. The growth of law reflects the growth of society. It is, as the Commission remark, "the upshot of a contention ever renewed of rival interests and conflicting tendencies of thought. It thus reflects the material and moral growth of the nation. And as society is now in a transition state hard and fast rules in the shape of codified laws, which must have the element of stability cannot therefore meet the legitimate needs of the Indian people." This truth, it would seem, was not lost sight of by the Commission, for they admit that "it is, perhaps, more difficult to determine, at any given moment, exactly what legal needs exist to be satisfied than to devise the laws which for the time will satisfy them. It is still harder to determine in what precise form and measure an infusion from a foreign systems is capable of forming a vital adhesion to the existing body so as to supply an obvious deficiency, or even give a stimulus to its natural growth. The legislature

then, should be in close and appeciative communication with the felt necessities and the active thought of the society for which it is to work. It must be quick to discern permanent tendencies amongst the temporary fluctuations of popular impulse." Let these "permanent tendencies" be discernible in distinctive forms, and let them be then given shape in specific or codified laws, but not until then. The Commission go on: "The true purpose of a Code is to further the moral and material progress of a people by fostering a general harmony of thought and action, and by employing all the means afforded by existing conditions for ensuring a future amelioration. There must then, be exact and sympathetic observation leading to true insight; there must be development; there must also be adoption and appropriation; but all without waste of force, and without neglect of any element which by its unacknowledged presence will set all calculations at fault." We agree, but we complain because there has not unfrequently been no harmony between Indian legislation and Indian thought and action. On the other hand there has been a mischievous disagreement between the two. If the Commission were consistent in their ideas, they should have recommended the stopping of unnecessary and violent legislation. But instead of doing that they actually advocate excessive legislation. They say, "it would seem as though a reaction of lassitude had quenched the energies of many distinguished administrators when we find them shrinking from projects which a few years ago they would have heartily welcomed. Legislation generally has for the time become distasteful, scientific legislation a kind of bugbear. It seems to be thought that the effort of grasping the new necessities can be avoided by a simple folding of the hands: it is overlooked that the times of great administrative progress in India have been the times of also of great legislative activity. Society, it is in substance asserted, can provide for its jural needs without any intervention of the legislature; and such intervention, being unnecessary, will almost certainly be mischievous. That there is much that is plausible in these arguments cannot be denied; but we believe they have no solid foundation and would hardly have been thought of but for their accordance with the tendency which for the moment is dominant in the minds of their authors. We think that active legislation is essential to the political health of a growing society." We deny this proposition. We deny that "active legislation is essential to the political health" of Indian society. Constant law-tinkering is not essential to political health. Our legislature has practically become a standing Committee of Changes, and if it considers its duty to be simply to make changes, suggested by a study of the conditions of society in Europe and America, it is greatly mistaken. The legislative mill has been unfortunately too active, and the country needs rest from it.

SECRET, SUSPICIOUS AND ARBITRARY.

In his Chelsea lecture Sir Arthur Hobhouse remarked that the Government of India "were slipping into the familiar vices of despotism, for they were secret, suspicious, and arbitrary." He has been taken to task for using these expressions. He has been called by General Strachey "disloyal and unpratriotic." Sir Arthur has answered General Strachey in two effective letters. We will take each of the expressions used by Sir Arthur and see whether he is right or not. Sir Arthur says that the proceedings of the Government of India have now become "secret." Is this charge true or not? Take for instance the passing of the Vernacular Press Act. How was it passed? Was any previous notice given of it? The members of the Government and those who were in its confidence were of course aware of the contemplated move, but the Additional Members of the Legislative Council did not know any thing about it until the eve of the day when the Bill was passed. It was then that a copy of the Bill was forwarded to the Additional Members of the Council with an intimation that it would be passed the next day under suspension of the standing orders. The Bill was not published in the usual way and no opportunity was given to the public to discuss it. The manner in which the Bill was carried through the Council has been since universally condemned. The Bill was concerted in secret and was passed in a packed Council. Did not this proceeding deserve to be stigmatized as "secret, suspicious, and arbitrary?" Was not the Bill clearly concocted in "secret;" did not this secrecy imply "suspicion," and was not the whole proceeding "arbitrary?" What did the Arms Act imply? Did it not imply distrust and "suspicion?" Take again the cotton duties. The remission of these duties was conceived in secret and carried out in secret. It was, as the Law Member of the Council remarked, a "fraud upon the power." It should have been laid before the Legislative Council, and publicly discussed. But the Government was evidently "suspicious," and so it preferred a course which was "secret and arbitrary." The last instance we will cite is the disappearance of the Famine Insurance Fund. On this point Sir Arthur Hobhouse has addressed a very able letter to the London *Spectator*. We cannot resist the temptation of reproducing Sir Arthur Hobhouse's remarks upon it. He says:

"On December 27th, 1877, Sir J. Strachey delivered the financial statement in Legislative Council. He proposed to create a surplus income of one and a half million, partly by new taxes, then to be imposed, to the extent of £800,000, partly by new taxes, imposed earlier in the year, to the extent of £325,000, and partly by arrangements with Local Governments. This surplus was to be in addition to an ordinary working surplus of half a million, and was to be for the special purpose of meeting the expenses of future famines. Sir J. Strachey guarded himself from professing to speak of the effect of unforeseen contingencies, and said that the Government did not contemplate the constitution of any separate fund, "as such a course would be attended with many useless and inconvenient complications, without giving any real security." But unless experience should prove that less was required, "we consider that the estimates of every year ought to make provision for religiously applying the sum I have mentioned to this sole purpose; and I hope that no desire to carry out any administrative improvement, however urgent, or *any fiscal reforms however wise*, will tempt the Government to neglect this sacred trust." After him, Lord Lytton spoke. He spoke of the one and a half million as a national insurance against famine, to be applied (wholly or partially) in making railroads and irrigation works. "We are conscious of the reproach we should justly incur if, after such a declaration as I have now made the prosecution of these necessary works were commenced, suspended, or relinquished, according to the increased or relaxed pressure of *annual circumstance*, or the intermittent activity of spasmodic effort." He then playfully bantered the failures of his predecessors, who had promised much and performed nothing. He supposed an objector saying. "Promise is a good dog, but Performance is a better; we have often heard the bow-wow of the first, we have yet to see the tail of the second." The present plan was to be of a quite different character. "We do not speak without having acted, and we promise nothing which we have not, after long and anxious consideration, provided ourselves with the means of performing." At subsequent meetings of the Council, Sir John Strachey's assurances were reiterated. He could not give an exact reply to the question how the Insurance Fund would be spent; but the great leading principle was, that local taxes were to be spent on local works; the insurance was to be paid by the insured. But he declined to ear-mark the fund, the ground assigned being that, under many conceivable circumstances, "it would be irrational to object to the *temporary diversion* of any necessary part of the revenue from this purpose *which might be no less urgently required* than" in meeting famine. All these assurances were given before the Bills passed, which was on February 9th. Nothing can be clearer than that the declared intention of the Government was to raise a fund, under a "sacred trust," to spend it on works adapted to prevent famines, unless prevented by some equally urgent necessity, which was not to be "any administrative improvement, *or any fiscal reform.*"

On March, 18th, 1878, there appeared in the *Gazette* a minute by Lord Lytton, which contained the following passages:—"The sole justification for the increased taxation which has just been imposed on the people of India. . . . . is the pledge we have given that the sum of not less than one and a half million sterling shall be annually applied to insurance against famine. It was impossible to explain in detail the precise character of those administrative guarantees which the Government of India then bound itself to provide for the faithful redemption of the above-mentioned pledges Owing to this impossibility, the manner in which the proceeds of the new taxation are to be applied to the reduction of Debt is the only part of our financial programme as to which *any mistrust of our sincerity* has been indicated on the part of the community. For this reason, it is all the more binding on the honour of the Government to redeem to the uttermost, without evasion or delay, the pledges for the adequate redemption of which the people of India have, and can have, *no other guarantee than the good-faith of their rulers.*" He then goes on to discuss the modes of dealing with the Fund. On March 8th, 1879, a deputation of the British Indian Association waited on Lord Lytton with an address, which began by stating their regret and alarm at the continued pressure from England for the repeal of the Indian import duty on cotton goods, and went on to assign their reasons why no revenue ought to be sacrificed in that quarter. Amongst other things, they referred to the fact that in a time of national tribulation the Government had put on new taxes to the amount of about one and a half million. Lord Lytton administered a sharp rebuke to such daring observations. And as to the new taxes, he remarked with "surprise and regret," that "you have entirely failed to recognise the fact that the sole purpose of the additional taxation you complain of [they had not complained of it], was the preservation of the lives of the people of India from the effects of famine." And after protesting that the motives of the Government were pure, he added, "To insinuate the contrary [nobody had insinuated it] is to insinuate a calumny."

Now at this moment the financial statement of the Government of India must have been drafted, for it was published in the *Gazette* five days afterwards. In that document it is stated flatly that "the insurance provided against future famines has virtually ceased to exist."

Why, then, were cotton duties remitted to an amount estimated variously at from £150,000 to upwards of £200,000.

A large deficit is admitted, nearly £1,400,000. It is stated that the amount raised for the Famine Insurance Fund was about £971,000; and that if there had been no Afghan war, there would have been a surplus of £605,000. Therefore I infer that if, in addition the cotton duties had not been repealed, there would have been a surplus of about £800,000. Is it wrong to say that the Famine Insurance Fund was applied in paying the expeness of an iniquitous war, and in enabling the repeal of the cotton duties; or that money raised ostensibly for one purpose was applied to another?"

Charges of insincerity may be mistaken, or in the opinion of the charged person calumnious; but they are certain to be made, if pledges are broken so very lightly. And when we find bodies like the British Indian Association and the Madras and Bengal Chambers of Commerce making such charges, when we find members of the Viceroy's Council telling him that it is certain that the people of India will believe such charges, and not saying that they themselves disbelieve them, it is a very serious matter. As to the power which procured the repeal of the cotton duties, and the machinery by which the operation was effected, the question is, perhaps, even more important, but it requires fuller treatment than would suit your columns.

Is it necessary to adduce further proofs in support of the charge? Perhaps the reader may remember the press circular issued last year by the Government of India. In that circular the utmost secrecy was enjoined to all officers of Government in all matters, which might come to their knowledge through the usual official channel. The connection of Government officers with the Press was sternly interdicted. Two distinguished officers were practically turned out of the public service for venturing to write for the public press, we allude to Col. Macdonald and Col. Osborn. But how are the Government officers, who praise and puff the Government, treated? Has any one of them been ever brought under punishment? Is it not notorious that Junior Civilians in Northern India largely contribute to the columns of the *Pioneer* and military officers to those of the *Civil and Military Gazette*, but has any one of them been spotted and punished? We all know that Lord Lytton personally likes the day-light of publicity; he had himself said so in Council; but how are his orders carried out in practice? The above facts clearly show whether or no Sir Arthur Hobhouse is right in his remarks and conclusions. If rumours are to be believed, the Government of India does not seem to be of one mind. Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, Sir Andrew Clarke, and Mr. Stokes do not generally approve of the present policy of the Government, but Sir John Strachey is supreme, and as the Viceroy unfortunately drinks deep of Strachinanity, their protests as a matter of course go for nothing. But this state of things cannot last long. We feel persuaded that in the next session of Parliament there will be a full enquiry into the working of the present Government of India.

COLONEL OSBORN AND THE NORTH-WEST FAMINE.

COLONEL R. D. OSBORN, in his article on "India under Lord Lytton" in the December number of the *Contemporary Review* has, the reader knows, attacked the policy which the Government pursued in reference to the late famine in the North-Western Provinces. Mr. C. A. Elliot, of the Bengal Civil Service, Secretary to the Famine Commission, has taken it upon himself to answer Colonel Osborn's attack. In a letter addressed to the *Times*, Mr. Elliot deals with the two charges made by Colonel Osborn against the management of the famine in the North-Western Provinces in 1877-78. The first charge is that Sir George Couper represented to the Supreme Government the necessity of remitting the land revenue demand on account of the distress occasioned by the failure of the autumn crops, but that Lord Lytton instructed the Lieutenant Governor to realize the State dues as if there was no dearth in the land. Mr. Elliot boldly asserts that "for this accusation there is positively no foundation whatever." How far this assertion is borne out by the facts of the case, will be seen from what is stated below. The facts we will take from an official document—

the Report of the Allahabad Board of Revenue on the revenue administration of the North-Western Provinces for the twelve months from 1st October 1877 to 30th September 1878. The Government Review of the Report thus begins: "The year 1877-78 was, in every way, a calamitous one for these Provinces. The *kharif* (autumn crops sown in July and reaped in October) *was generally a failure from drought.* A providential fall of rain in October 1877, enabled the cultivators to sow the *rabi* over an area much larger than is usually under cultivation in the cold season; but untimely rain in the months from February to May developed rust and blight, which greatly diminished the produce: where the crops escaped blight, the grain was light owing to the prevalence of high hot winds: hail-stones of unusual severity and extent did great damage in many villages, and much grain, when collected on the threshing floors, was injured by damp." In a word, the result of the agricultural season of 1877-78, was an almost total failure of the *kharif* crop, followed by an indifferent *rabi*. The Government Review further states:—

"The October rain, which allowed the *rabi* to be sown, probably saved the provinces from desolating famine; but it could not supply what had been lost in the autumn; and the failure of the *kharif*—the produce of which furnishes the ordinary food supply of the poorer classes—led to severe distress in many districts. Grain, during the cold weather, was scarce and dear: there was little work in the fields after the *rabi* was sown, owing to the abundant rain which rendered irrigation unnecessary: want and cold told disastrously on the health of the labouring section of the agricultural community, and raised abnormally the rate of mortality, especially in the Rohilkhund Division."

Mr. Elliott has the hardihood to assert that Sir George Couper had exaggerated the extent of the distress, but he adduces not a tittle of evidence to establish the position taken up by him. On the contrary, there is every reason to think that the Lieutenant-Governor had under-estimated the gravity of the situation. In view of the "almost total failure of the Kharif crop" Sir George Couper was perfectly justified in representing to the Supreme Government that the realisation of the *kharif* kist would "ruin the mass of revenue payers." No heed was paid to this representation, and the revenue demand was rigourously exacted as if nothing particular had happened. The total demand on the 1st of October 1877 was Rs. 4,27,72,165, of which Rs. 4,15,14,501 were collected leaving a balance of Rs. 12,57,664 only at the close of the year. It is needless to say that this cruel step was taken under instructions from the Supreme Government. The Government of India pointed out to the Lieutenant-Governor "that the principle on which settlements have been made in the North-Western Provinces is to fix a moderate average demand for a long course of years, the Government agreeing to relinquish the excess in a good year, and expecting that the deficiency of a bad year shall be made good from the accumulated surplus of past, or anticipated surplus of coming years." It is strange that bearing in mind the stubborn fact that the State demand exceeds 60 per cent. of the rental collections, the Government of India did not feel ashamed to say that the principle on which settlements have been made in the North-Western Provinces is to fix a moderate average demand for a long course of years. Acting under the orders received from the Supreme Government the Lieutenant-Governor laid down the broad rule "*that zemindars, who are well off capitalists, who have other sources of income, and those tenants who have saved a portion of their crops, and generally all who can pay up, should be required to do so.*" The Board of Revenue, as might have been expected, improved upon the instructions of the Lieutenant-Governor. They explained to Divisional Commissioners that "those landholders will be excused from the payment of the *kharif kists* at the prescribed dates, who can satisfy the Government demand only by recourse to the money-lender." All this certainly looks quite unobjectionable on paper; but let us see how these instructions were carried out in practice. In the administration report of the North-Western Provinces for the official year 1877-78 Sir George Couper distinctly admits *that landholders satisfied the Government demand for the kharif kist by borrowing from money-lenders.* What a commentary is this admission on the instructions issued by the Board of Revenue to the Divisional Commissioners to the effect that the kharif kist should be realised from those only, who could meet their state obligations without recourse to the money-lender! How the rigorous exaction of the kharif kist in the North-Western Provinces in 1877-78 has affected the people will be seen from the following passage taken from the report of Mr. Aucland Colvin, late Collector of Bijnour, who is now in the service of the Egyptian Government. Mr. Colvin writes:—

"Considerable as must have been the relief so allowed [by suspension of a portion of the *kharif* demand] money had to be borrowed on a large scale at a high rate of interest, and much jewellery was sold, or pawned. Registered deeds show a very heavy increase, and so do transfers of property. A calamity such as that of 1877.78, partial though it was, guts a district. Embarrassments have been renewed or created which, in too many cases, will never be cleared off. Add to this the mortality and the emigration, and we shall find, as the famine clears away, a population reduced, greatly impoverished, disheartened, and dislocated; a proprietory loaded with fresh debt; and, eventually, an increase in the transfer of land from the agricultural to the non-agricultural class. That is our present aspect and prospect. Suspension of land revenue cannot lessen the distress, but can only mitigate it."

This passage, it should be remembered, comes from the pen of one of the ablest revenue officers the North-Western Provinces have ever had—an officer who was selected by Sir John Strachey to succeed Mr. Elliot in the chief Secretaryship to the Local Government. There can be but little doubt that in a few years the Government will with a merry heart bring forward a confiscation measure like the Deccan Agriculturists Relief Act, for the purpose of rescuing the hopelessly embarrassed landholders and tenants of the North-Western Provinces from the grasp of their so-called Shylocks, forgetting that its own cruelty in 1877-78 obliged the revenue and rent-payers to have recourse to the money-lender. Nor is this all. The Government in many instances has been guilty of a gross breach of faith in exacting the kharif kist. When the prolonged drought of the summer of 1877 made it plain that the autumn crops would be a total failure, thoughtful and considerate district officers encouraged landholders within their jurisdiction to suspend rent collection with the assurance that the Government would grant them a similar indulgence. Landholders, as might be expected, met the wishes of their district officers, but they afterwards saw the inexorable tax-gatherer at their doors. The State landlord in India is, indeed, the real Shylock, as will be seen from a comparison of the policy pursued in the North-Western Provinces and Bombay, during the late famine with the course of action followed by Sir Madava Rao in Baroda, the land revenue demand of which is less than 90 lakhs of rupees. Owing to the badness of the season in 1877-78 the Baroda administration gave remissions to the extent of Rs. 2,31,556 and made suspensions to the amount of Rs. 10,87,566, a considerable portion of which has probably been eventually remitted. Mr. Elliot in his anxiety to defend Lord Lytton from the charges brought by Colonel Osborn, has conveniently overlooked or ignored the stubborn facts we have given above.

Colonel Osborn's second charge against Lord Lytton in reference to the management of the North-West famine is, that the Government of India attempted to hush up and keep secret the famine. Mr. Elliot states that this charge is altogether absurd. He admits that the mortality in these Provinces in 1877-78 was great and deplorable; but he contends that this increase in the death-rate cannot reasonably be attributed "to the neglect and cruelty of the Government." Mr. Elliot also asserts that relief works were provided "in no niggardly way;" that "employment was offered to all who needed it;" and that "in all the inquiries that have been subsequently made no single instance has been discovered in which any one in need of employment was unable to get it." The correctness of these assertions has to be established, but Mr. Elliot brings forward no evidence. We must admit that in September 1877, when the fate of the *rabi* was trembling in the balance, the Government of the North-Western Provinces had fully realised the gravity of the situation, and energetically occupied itself with preparations for meeting the impending calamity. Early in September Sir George Couper rightly "considered that the time had come to prepare a scheme of relief operations—to be started when the necessity for aiding the distressed had declared itself." The Chief Engineers in the General and Irrigation Branches of the Public Works Department were deputed to the threatened districts to frame, in consultation with the local authorities, a scheme of relief works. Some petty relief works were opened in which there were about 30,000 people at the end of September. Up to the beginning of October, indeed, the Government of the North-Western Provinces did all that could be desired for grappling with the approaching famine. But the general rainfall between the 5th and 10th of that month which secured the rabi sowings and saved the North-Western Provinces from a most dreadful calamity, made the authorities believe that all danger had passed away, and that the people would be able to tide over the difficulty without any material assistance from the State. Most of the relief works which had been in operation at the beginning of the month were closed, and the Government of India at once informed the Secretary of State that the North-Western Provinces were safe. Colonel (now General) Alexander Fraser, the then Secretary to the N. W. P. Government in the Public Works Department was deputed to make his famous second tour through the provinces with the view of determining what works would still be required under the altered conditions. It is well known that the main object of this tour was to discourage the opening of relief works. So long as the rabi sowings lasted, the labouring classes obtained employment in the fields. But when those sowings came to a close by the end of November, the people were deprived of the means of earning food. As a matter of course, severe distress manifested itself early in December. But even then the Government persisted in shutting its eyes to what was going on in the North-Western Provinces; and we say without fear of contradiction that it was not until the mortuary returns for December had been placed before Sir George Couper that he was not roused from the sense of false security into which he had lulled himself. It was in the middle of January 1878 that relief works were opened. The Government and its defenders would have the public believe that the people for whom those works were provided were so apathetic and indifferent to their fate that they refused to avail themselves of the advantages which had been placed within their reach. But they were not really so stupid as the Government would represent them. The fact is that on the relief works being opened task-work was rigorously exacted, and the labourers were paid "a bare subsistence wage." This was done in order, we quote the Administration Report of the North-Western Provinces for 1877-78, "that if other works were procurable they, the labourers, would prefer to resort to it." We know it as a fact that in some districts the scale of wages allowed on the relief works was only one anna for men and nine pies for women; and that *all* applicants for employment even in this rate of remuneration were not provided with work. Mr. James Caird has, in a letter addressed to the *Times*, informed the British public that the views expressed by Mr. Elliot on the subject of the management of the North-West famine are not those of the Famine Commission. Indeed, if such had been the case, we would have been grievously disappointed with the result of the inquiries of the Commission. The Government has attempted to account in various ways for the dreadful mortality, which occurred in the North-Western Provinces during the closing month of 1877 and the first three months of 1878. But the explanations hitherto given, however ingenious, have not succeeded in convincing the public that the increase in the death-rate in the North-Western Provinces in 1877-78 was not due "to the neglect and cruelty of the Government." It is a thousand pities that Mr. Elliot, after writing a history of the Mysore famine with "fearless frankness," should have come forward to maintain that the Government did not neglect its duty to the suffering people in the North-Western Provinces during the late famine!

We should add one word. While Lord Lytton as the head of the Government must in theory

be held responsible for the acts of his Government, the responsibility of the mismanagement of the Famine in the N. W. P. ought in justice to rest upon Sir John Strachey. He is a Civilian of Northern India, was lately its Lieutenant Governor, and was naturally trusted by Lord Lytton as the highest authority on matters connected with that province, but unfortunately for him the events proved that his Lordship's faith was misplaced.

AGRICULTURAL REFORM IN INDIA.

II.

WE have already seen that, in Mr. Allan Hume's opinion, our peasantry have nothing to learn, so far as non-scientific agriculture is concerned; and that agricultural reform in India means the introduction of scientific agriculture. There can be no doubt that an improved system of tillage will lead to an increase in the produce of the land. But we must examine carefully the feasibility of introducing scientific agriculture in this country. In giving advice we must consider, not what is the best possible thing to be done in any abstract point of view stated, but what is really practicable. The scheme of agricultural reform which Mr. Allan Hume has propounded leaves nothing to be desired; but the question is whether it can be carried out in the existing circumstances of the country. To the discussion of this vitally important question we must now devote our attention.

Mr. Allan Hume has the good sense to admit that his proposed Agricultural Department will, at the outset, have mainly to teach itself. He rightly observes:—"Scientific truths are immutable, but their profitable application demands a thorough knowledge of the entire environment of the particular position, a thorough comprehension of local conditions, and we cannot usefully begin to teach natives the theory of agriculture until we have first taught ourselves (and are, therefore, in a position to teach them also) how, under the peculiar local conditions of India, and different provinces of India we can advantageously give practical effect to that theory." It is, therefore, evident that an Indian Department of Agriculture will first have to teach itself before it can undertake to teach scientific agriculture to our countrymen. Mr. Hume does not state how long it will take the new Department to acquire the necessary knowledge; but there can be no doubt that it will take a pretty long time. During the period the Department is occupied in teaching itself the tax-payer will have to pay something like 25 lakhs per annum for the maintenance of the special and skilled agency the employment of which Mr. Allan Hume recommends; and he declares that unless an efficient directing and controlling agency be employed, nothing can be done. This agency will necessarily be a costly one. If the enormous expenditure which the creation of an Agricultural Department must involve should ultimately prove remunerative, no reasonable objection can be advanced against incurring it. But painful experience has taught us that the so-called reproductive expenditure in this country proves unproductive in nine cases out of ten. Assuming that the Government will *at last* take some real steps in the direction of agricultural reform, Mr. Allan Hume sets forth some few of those problems which should at the outset engage the attention of any working department of agriculture in India. "First and foremost," says he, "unquestionably stands the increased provision of manure, not merely because this is the crying want of Indian agriculture, but because unavoidably any practical arrangement for supplying this want must at the same time supply many other minor ones." The main causes of the scarcity of manure, he points out, are the comparative paucity of cattle, and the almost universal use of their dung as fuel. The paucity of cattle, he thinks, is "due almost entirely to the incredible losses of stock sustained from starvation and different forms of cattle disease. The consumption of their droppings as fuel is due to the impossibility in some places, or expense, in others, of procuring wood." He estimates that the average annual loss of cattle in India by preventible cattle disease of one form or another, at fully a crore of beasts, roughly valued at 7½ crores of rupees. "If our poor beasts only had reasonably fair play, the whole empire would swarm with cattle, and cattle able to work the heaviest ploughs, and, in soils and situations where this was necessary or desirable, to plough as deep as you like." It would be the business of the proposed Agricultural Department to give fair play to the cattle of the country by an improved provision of fodder and by the dissemination of correct veterinary knowledge amongst Indian agriculturists. Mr. Allan Hume advocates the planting up with trees of a certain sufficient area in *every* village in the drier portions of the country; and he argues that with this improved provision of fodder we will obtain simultaneously an improved supply of fuel, and an immediate great diminution in the consumption of manure as such. "Very few natives will cook with cow-dung cakes if they can procure sticks, and it is chiefly for cooking purposes that fuel is required in India." With improvement of cattle and an abundant supply of manure the introduction of deeper ploughing would be an easy matter.

Every person, who has made himself acquainted with the rudiments of the subject, will admit that deep ploughing and adequate manuring would lead to a large increase in the produce of the land, even without much irrigation. The late Colonel Corbett, in his *Climate and Resources of Upper India* writes:—"It is universally admitted by agriculturists in all countries, where farming has been studied as a science, and is not despised and left in the hands of the most ignorant of the population as in India, that deep cultivation and pulverisation of the soil preserve moisture in it." The importance of deep ploughing which not only renews the productiveness of exhausted soils, but also dispenses, to a great extent, with the necessity for irrigation, cannot, indeed, be overrated. But, then the difficulties in the way of its adoption in India are almost insurmountable. We do not attach much weight to the opinions of those who hold that the conservatism of the Indian cultivators will not admit of the introduction of scientific agriculture. Experience has conclusively demonstrated that our ryots are ready to adopt any new remunerative crops; and we have no doubt that they will be equally ready to adopt any new implements provided they find it to their interest to do so. In considering the difficulties which have to be met in inducing the agricultural population of India to adopt deep ploughing, we may, therefore, overlook the argument based on the alleged disinclination of Native cultivators to use a new implement. Well has Mr. Buck, the Director of Agriculture and Commerce, N. W. P. and Oudh, remarked, in connection with the introduction of an improved plough, that "profits conquer prejudice." The real difficulties which have to be overcome in inducing our ryots to adopt a new implement are, as Mr. Buck has pointed out, the inaptitude of foreign implements to agricultural conditions in India; the weakness of draught cattle; the cost of improved ploughs; and the difficulty of keeping them in order. Enthusiastic advocates of agricultural reform in India make light of these obstacles; but as we have already remarked, the obstacles are almost insurmountable. So long as the breed of cattle is not improved,—and it will be no easy task to effect this improvement—none but light ploughs can be used by native cultivators. English or American ploughs are too heavy to be worked by the ordinary cattle of the country. Then, the cultivator, with his limited means, cannot afford to pay 20 or even 10 rupees for a plough. The ordinary native plough, we believe, costs Rs. 2-8 or 3; and the agricultural classes in the country would find it beyond their power to pay much more for an implement. Again, the construction of an improved plough should be so simple that Native mistries in ordinary villages should be able to make them. Three conditions are, therefore, essential to the success of a new plough—viz., lightness, cheapness, and simplicity. There is another important consideration connected with improved implements, which should not be lost sight of. The plough should be so devised that it can be easily worked by one man; and that the driver of the plough can reach his bullocks' tails. This may seem absurd to Englishmen unacquainted with the circumstances of India; but Dr. Buck has recognized that "bullocks' tails are the reins of the Indian ploughman, of which an occasional twist is the only preventive of a straggling furrow." Mr. Allan Hume asserts that the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, N. W. P. and Oudh, has already done something for ploughs, and he gives Mr. Buck credit for this result. We regret we cannot concur in this view. The plough invented by Mr. Buck is an imitation of the heavy and complex American plough; and it does not meet the four essential conditions we have just mentioned. Mr. Buck's plough costs ten rupees a piece—a price which is utterly beyond the means of the ordinary cultivators. Moreover, its construction is not so simple that it can be easily kept in order, and it is too heavy for the draught cattle ordinarily available in the country. In some estates under the Court of Wards Mr. Buck's plough has, no doubt, been introduced; but their useful effects are not acknowledged by Native cultivators. So long, therefore, as an improved plough suited to the conditions existing in this country is not invented, it is idle to talk of the introduction of deeper ploughing. What the Department of Agriculture in the North-Western Provinces has so far done in the matter of improving agricultural implements does not, we must frankly say, encourage us to expect much from Mr. Allan Hume's proposed Indian Bureau of Agriculture. So much for deep ploughing. As regards an adequate supply of manures, it should be distinctly understood that such a supply is absolutely beyond the reach of the Indian cultivator. The ryot, as we pointed out in noticing Mr. James Caird's articles on India in the *Nineteenth Century*, must burn the manurial substances at his command for the purpose of cooking his food. This he does, not from choice, but from sheer, stern necessity. We need no professional man to tell us that "in wood-ashes, night-soil, cow-dung, horse-litter and the leaves of trees, India possesses all the manurial ingredients required to be added to the soil." We can assure advocates of agricultural reform that the ryot uses the droppings of his cattle as fuel not from stupidity, but from necessity. He cannot afford to buy firewood. Would-be agricultural reformers in India cannot too carefully bear in mind the fact that our ryots, speaking generally, have no resources beyond the current harvest. How can men in such wretched circumstances pursue a scientific system of agriculture which demands the employment of capital. The ryot must first be better housed, fed and clothed; and then there will be time enough to induce him to adopt scientific agriculture. We fully agree with a writer in the leading columns of the *Statesman* in holding that permanent settlement must be a necessary preliminary to any real improvement of agriculture and the condition of the cultivators. Mr. Allan Hume, as might be expected from an officer brought up in the traditions of the North-Western Provinces, strongly condemns the permanent settlement of Bengal as involving a heavy loss to the State. As we have often discussed this subject fully in these columns, we will not now undertake to show again that the Government has been a gainer by the measure with which Lord Cornwallis' name is associated. It is due to Mr. Allan Hume to say that he fully recognises the impoverished condition of the actual cultivators of the soil, almost throughout the empire as an obstacle in the way of agricultural reform. He discusses at some length, the question of the indebtedness of the peasantry but as we have already exceeded the limits of a single article, we will return to the subject in our next.

FACTORY LEGISLATION.

THE Bombay mill-owners lately held a meeting against the new Factory Bill. All the speakers were arrayed against it except Mr. Hector. Mr. Greaves, who took the chair, said, "there were many reasons why such an Act should not be introduced. Mill expenses here were greater than in England; an immense cost was incurred in bringing out the machinery; the operatives were not so efficient; and while it was no uncommon thing to find at home that one man

attended four looms and, with a *little* help, six looms, here it took one man for each loom, and it was perhaps seldom one man ever attended to two. It must be remembered that the country was just emerging from a period of very great depression, a large number of people were roaming about the streets, and a large number who could not here earn a livelihood, were sent back to their native towns and villages. They, the members of the Association, were just beginning to feel their ground again, and they ought to oppose every attempt made to curtail the hours of labour in the mills." The Hon'ble Morarjee Goculdas, who himself is perhaps the largest mill-owner, and who is well known for his public spirit and humanity, deprecated interference. He remarked: "It is all very well to talk of the miseries of the mill-hands, but men who overflow with sympathy for these beings carefully avoid saying anything on the other great question, which every day assumes a serious shape. How are the labouring classes to be saved from begging? If the Government wish to enjoy peace, I think it is bound to see that every industry which provides the lower classes with work and keeps them away from lawlessness, is not interfered with unnecessarily." Mr. Nanabhoy Byramjee Jeejeebhoy said, "not only the circumstances of climate, but even those of the natures and habits of the people of this country and those of England differ so vastly, that however much such legislation may have benefited the operatives in the cold and changing climate of Lancashire or Glasgow, it cannot but result in great injury to the trade if it is introduced in this country. The working of the Boiler Inspection Act has convinced us of the hardship which such legislation entails, and we have enough of State interference already." Mr. Muncherjee Nowrojee Banajee urged that whatever might be good for England would not necessarily prove good for India. He said: "Whatever is held good in England, no matter under what circumstances, and after what lengthened agitation and intelligent public discussion, is also held good for India. We have had no paucity of such reasoners here—men who have advised the Government of India to burden the Indian Statute Book with a number of bad or indifferent copies, hopelessly mutilated in some instances, of good English Acts. Has there arisen any necessity whatsoever for the Act in India? Has there been a hue and cry, far and wide, from mill operatives that they are overworked, underpaid, done up almost to death by overcrowding, bad light, ill ventilation—in fact ill-treated by their employers? If they are, how is it that the so-called friends of the poor operatives, the agitators for the introduction of the Act, have not come forward and given us statistics or furnished us with examples?" The speaker cited the Health-Officer of Bombay as a witness in his support. That officer stated that "the mill operatives were better off and better fed than work-people in the bazaar. Why, your own experience, and the experience of any business man who has eyes to see and a good head to judge, will say that compared with a host of work-people employed in various sorts of industries and manual labour, some of them of a most disgusting and health-injuring character, such as wool-picking, tanning, dyeing, &c. carried on in the numerous byelanes and backslums of the town, where light and ventilation are almost *nil*, that in fact compared with the light and ventilation of mills these haunts of industries are as but pandemoniums—I say compared with a host of operatives so employed, the mill work-people are infinitely better off every way." Mr. Hector, however, protested against this general protest. He said:

I do not know anybody who wishes to see the English Acts introduced into India. The Indian Factory Bill is simply a very temperate measure calculated to meet the special circumstances to which it is to be applied. It has been said to-day that the reasons urged on behalf of the mill operatives are sentimental reasons. It would be vain to appeal to you, gentlemen, on such grounds. Sentiment has no place in the consciousness of business men, it has no business there, but there are certain moral responsibilities which we cannot ignore but which I fear we do disregard. We are entitled to the labour of our workmen for the wages which we pay them, but to no more. We have no right to rob them of that life which they owe to the Self-Existent Giver of their life and ours. When I think of those helpless trusting children and know how they are treated, I cannot conceive how you can come forward and say frankly and unreservedly that you are using them well.

He quoted some evidence. Thus:

One of the witnesses examined was Mr. Helm, the Manager of the Bombay United Spinning and Weaving Mill. When asked, how many hours the children were employed daily, he replied 12 hours. "Have they any interval of rest during those hours? They stop for half-an-hour in the middle of the day for meals.—Do the children work all the rest of the time?—Yes, all the rest of the time. Usually standing?—Yes, usually standing.—But not sitting? Not sitting.—Do you think they ought to have a longer interval? Yes, they ought to have one full hour in the middle of the day.—Then what is the lowest age when children ought to be employed? I think those who are of the age of from 10 to 13 ought to be employed half time and those from 13 and upwards full time. Mr. Motiram Bhagoobhoy, the general superintendent of the Frere and Mazagon Spinning and Weaving Company, when asked if the children work the same hours as other people, replied "yes they keep the same hours.—Do you think it is too much for the children to work so long? I do." Dr. Weir, the present Health Officer of Bombay in his evidence, says, "For boys from 10 to 14 six hours is sufficient working time. By employing children for half time only there would be a better distribution of money, as more children would have to be employed. Mr. Alcock states.—My opinion is that the present hours are too long for children but I must decline to give an opinion as to how long they should be employed. I have always had adults working under me but not young persons." Now, in opposition to all this evidence and knowing all you know, how can you put your signatures to this letter, one of the first statements in which is to the effect that legislative interference of any kind is wholly unnecessary?

Mr. Nowrojee Nusserwanjee Wadiah thus answered Mr. Hector:

Mr. Hector in his remarks has urged that factory legislation is necessary, and if once introduced it will not in any way impair our rising industry; but with decreased hours we may expect to get from an Indian operative the same work as from an English one in Lancashire. This is simply absurd. It is well known to all that a number of Indian coolies in whatever occupation they may be are always engaged to perform the work done by a single person in England, either in a mill or in any other branch of industry; and I can safely say that we shall never be able to get at a lower proportion than three Indian operatives for one of England. I will give you a practical illustration of this. In the spinning department in an English mill, a pair of mules containing some 1,600 to 1,800 spindles, can easily be kept at work by one man and one boy, while in Bombay where we have as a rule mules ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 spindles, in a pair it is necessary to have one spinner, four piecers and one to two creelers. In other words, six to seven persons to do the same work, and I may state that I have from time to time tried to reduce this number, but have found the men unable to keep the machinery going efficiently with less men. Mr. Hector has stated that the doffers in the throstle department in his mill are invariably kept at work, and that if they are not doffering they are employed on some other work. What other work, he has not stated, but I may say that if such be the case, his is the only mill where it is so. From a personal knowledge of most of the mills in Bombay I can say that such is not the case, that the doffers are only employed for removing the full yearn robbins from the spinning machines, and replacing empty ones; and as this occurs only from four to five times a day, I can safely say that they are not kept at actual work for more than six to seven hours.

Regarding the education of children on the continent, and those who under a cloak of humanity are raising up an imaginary grievance to serve their interests, I would ask them to reflect i fthey are not indirectly encouraging the growth of the cotton industry on the Continent? Within the last five years almost every machine maker in Lancashire has been manufacturing machinery for the continent, and the result is that not only are they supplying under protective duties their local wants, but are shipping largely to India and China in competition with the Lancashire manufacturer, they having no legislative interferences to check their progress, Mr. Hector has spoken of the stifled atmosphere in a Bombay factory: he can really have no idea that the mills in Bombay are by far the best ventilated mills; that it is only lately, within the last ten years, loftier mills are being introduced in Lancashire: before that time it being invariably the custom to build a mill from nine to ten feet high, and now twelve to fifteen feet between floors, I may say that every mill in Bombay will be be found to have not less than fourteen feet between their floors, and some much more. Mr. Hector has given an illustration that he visited on a certain day his mill at Colaba, and found that out of twenty-seven children, some six or seven, had got no food up to the time of his visit in the afternoon. I may say that if such was the case, his mills are a solitary exception from the rest. In the Bombay mills generally we find our work-people eat throughout the day just as it suits their convenience.

We have not room for more extracts. Of course the mill-owners are interested parties, and if their statements cannot be verified, they are not entitled to a hearing. But when they publicly make certain assertions, we fairly assume that they are able to support them. Whilst we hold that there is no necessity for factory legislation for Bengal, we confess we would not be opposed to it, if such necessity were clearly established for Bombay. But the advocates of a Factory Bill for Bombay have not yet proved their case. They have adduced no facts or statements to shew that the operatives at the Bombay mills are suffering in health from the absence of State supervision. If any thing, the facts advanced by the millowners prove the contrary. We would therefore advise our legislators not to jump to conclusions. We would recommend the Select Committee to examine witnesses before they report upon the Bill. Why should they not visit Bombay and take evidence on the spot? There is no necessity for hurrying on the measure. We think the mill-owners will do well to ask the Select Committee to take evidence on the subject.

FISHERIES IN BENGAL.

A VERY important question as to the right of Government in fisheries in navigable rivers raised in connection with a case of Mr. J. R. Rainey, Zemindar, Khulnia, is laid before us. In 1868 the question of the resumption of fisheries by Government was considered, and the then Advocate General gave it as his opinion that "Government held its proprietary right to the fisheries in tidal rivers on behalf of the public, and could not alienate or farm it out to private parties, and that the right of fishery therein is not private property, but a right common to every person." He further stated that "the fishermen of the neighbourhood have a right to fish in the rivers in question without let or hindrance from any Zemindar, and that they should be protected in the peaceful exercise of this right." This opinion the Government at first sought to enforce, but owing to a decision of the High Court in a case of the late Hon'ble Prosunno Kumar Tagore we believe it abandoned its claim. But it was revived in the case of Mr. Rainey. Referring to certain fisheries in the tidal rivers Bhairab and Rupsha, the Assistant Collector of Khulna issued a general proclamation acquainting the public with the fact that fisheries in tidal rivers were free, but beyond this no special order was communicated by him to any zemindar or to the fishermen interested. The effect of this proclamation was, however, that the fishermen stopped payment. Mr. Rainey appealed to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division for redress, but the Commissioner refused to direct the withdrawal of the instructions issued by the Collector to the Assistant Collector, on the ground that they were not "such as to injure or prejudice any valid rights of fishery which may be possessed by Mr. Rainey, or to interfere with his lawful receipt of rents from the fishermen." The Commissioner held that the instructions of the Collector on which the proclamation was founded were correct and proper, founding this opinion on the ground that "it has been held by a long course of decisions passed by the late Sudder and present High Court; that the right of fishery in streams through which the tide flows may be exercised by any subject of the Crown; and that it is not in the power of the Government, or of any person, to possess or to assign the exclusive possession of such waters to any person or persons for fiscal purposes." The Board of Revenue, (Mr. Dampier sitting) to which an appeal was made by Mr. Rainey, remarks: "The Commissioner does not refer expressly to the decisions constituting the long course, nor are the Board aware of anything like a course of decisions on the subject; but the Commissioner also refers to the opinion adopted by the Government of Bengal on the advice of the Advocate-General and Legal Remembrancer of 1868, and expressed in these terms: "The Government holds its proprietary right to the fisheries in tidal rivers on behalf of the public, and cannot alienate such right or farm it out to private persons." The Board continues:

As there has been no authoritative judicial decision of the question since the Government deliberately adopted and promulgated the opinion contained in the order of 1868, the most that the Board could say to the Government is that apparently now, as in 1868, different views are entertained on this general question. This is not a sufficient ground for asking the Government to re-open the question as is desired by Mr. Rainey.

So Mr. Rainey's redress lies in the Civil Court. We have the highest respect for Mr. Dampier's knowledge of the revenue law and judicial cast of mind, and cannot but regret that he should have refused to argue the question on its own merits. His opinion on a matter like this would have carried the greatest weight. We do not quite agree with him that the opinion of the present Advocate-General quoted by Mr. Rainey does not bear upon the point at issue. We give Mr. Paul's opinion below:

Question—Whether the Magna Charta, which took away the power of the Crown in England and Ireland to possess or to assign the exclusive right to fishery in streams through which the tide flows, is applicable to this country?

Answer.—"I think not."

Question.—Can the exclusive right to fish in such waters be legally possessed by any person in India by grant or prescription?

Answer.—"I think it can."

Question.—Is the decision of the Presidency Commissioner dated the 31st January 1879, based upon an erroneous view of the law and legally wrong?

Answer.—"I do not consider the decision right."

Question.—Under the circumstances of the case what is the best course to adopt to obtain redress?

Answer.—"The parties should in the first instance appeal to the Board."

We humbly think that the questions and answers are specific enough, and their import could not be misunderstood. We will however quote the opinion of the late Advocate General, Mr. Cowie, given on an analogous subject. This opinion was given by Mr. Cowie on the right of the zemindar to levy mooring rents on a reference made by Government regarding the collections made by certain zemindars of Gowalpara on the banks of rivers:

Points for Legal Opinion.

I. Whether the right of the public to the free use of the banks and beds of rivers is not for the purpose passing up and down and navigation only?

I. The right of the public is limited to making use of the river as a public highway. The soil of the river and the banks are the property of the riparian zemindars

II. Can an individual as one of the public claim to stack timber on the bank or bed without the consent of the proprietor.

II. No one has any right to stack timber on the bed or bank of the river without the leave and license of the zemindar on whose side of the river the bed or bank lies. The riparian proprietors divide between them the right to the bed of the river.

III. Whether the 'thaljat' dues levied by the proprietors as stated above, are illegal—

1*st.*—Regard being had to their general proprietary right, over the bank and bed, subject to, and not interfering with, the right of the public to the free use thereof for purposes of navigation;

2*nd.*—Regard being had to the fact of 'thaljat' dues having been levied as above from time immemorial, and to any rights they may have acquired by custom or prescription?

III. If the dues on stacked timber have been paid for so long a period as has been stated, the demand of the dues is clearly legal. The custom merely determines the rent which the zemindars are to receive for the occupation of their banks by the stacks of timber. In the absence of such a custom the stacking of timber would constitute a trespass; the dues in fact are the terms on which the zemindars allow their land to be made use of. If (as I understand) payment of the dues is refused, the respective zemindars should prevent any timber from being stacked until the duty is paid.

T. H. COWIE.

If the bed of the river belongs to the Zemindar, and Mr. Cowie made no distinction between navigable and non-navigable rivers, surely the fishery in the river belongs to him. The boundaries of many permanently settled estates include navigable rivers, and the *julkars* under the Regulations were made over to the Zemindar. It is not, therefore, correct to contend that the right of fishery in navigable rivers was reserved to the State. As the question is one of general importance we hope the Government will not refuse to reopen the question.

THE STATE OF PUDUCOTTAH.

THERE is an interesting little State called Puducottah in the South-West of the Madras Presidency. Its area is small, population limited, and resources necessarily circumscribed, but it has all the parapharnalia of an independent Native State. The area of the State is given at 1,049 square miles. The extreme limits are east to west 60 miles and north to south 45 miles. The total number of revenue-paying villages is 1205. A complete census it seems has been taken of the State. The population comprises 141,716 males, and 152,093 females, total 293,809 or about two-thirds of the population of Calcutta. The number of houses are—Terraced 301; thatched 56,720; tiled 2,457. Resident ryots 22,665; non-resident ryots 8,225; total 30,890, having 20,581 ploughs. The cattle comprise bullocks 60,454; cows 42,473; calves 19,743; he-buffalos 7,995; she-buffalos 18,566; buffalo calves 7,981; sheep 1,51,888. The income of the State amounted last year to Rs. 3,34,910, or including the cash balance of last year to Rs. 4,26,946. The administration of the State is modelled on that of British India. We are told that the law administered in the State is identical with that in British India. The Procedure is also the Civil Procedure Code of India, Act VIII of 1859, but no fees are levied on the institution of suits. The standard English Law Books, and the Law Reports of British Indian cases form the guide of the Bench and Bar in this State. The Criminal Law administered is the Penal Code of British India with modifications in rare cases. The procedure is also that of British India. By the custom of the State, no capital punishment is inflicted in any case. Life imprisonment is substituted for it. The State is divided into several Departments, Revenue, General, and Public Works. Civil Justice is administered by three Munsiff Courts, one for each Taluq; a Small Cause Judge's Court for the town and suburbs, and a Civil Judge's Court. All these are Courts of original jurisdiction only. The first four have jurisdiction up to Rs. 250 only on the Munsiff side, and up to Rs. 20 on the Small Cause side. The Civil Court has jurisdiction above Rs. 250 without limit, and has no Small Cause jurisdiction. The Appellate power over all Courts vests exclusively in the Huzoor Appeal Court, consisting of His Highness the Raja, who is President, the Sirkele or the Minister ex-Officio Judge, and of the Appeal Judge. The Criminal Courts are thus constituted: *First.*—Third Class Sub-Magistrate's Penal Jurisdiction. Fine up to Rs. 50 and imprisonment not exceeding one month. *Second.*—Second Class do. Fine up to Rs. 200 and imprisonment not exceeding six months. *Third.*—District Magistrate's do. Fine up to Rs. 1,000 and imprisonment not exceeding two years. *Fourth.*—Session Judge, as under the Code. Mr. Sashia Sastri, late Minister of Travancore, and the new member of the Governor General's Legislative Council, has consented to serve as the Dewan or Minister of the State. He takes some interest in the State and has gone there to reform its administration. The first year of his connection is over, and in the report before us he gives an account of what he has been able to accomplish. He writes:

At the kind invitation of His Excellency the Rajah, and under the encouraging auspices of Mr. Sewell, the Political Agent, and of the Members of the Government of Madras who were all deeply interested in the well-being of the Puducottah State, I took charge of the administration on the 8th August 1878. Though the personal enquiries I was able to make during my preliminary visits to Puducottah, and a perusal of the reports in the Office of the Political Agent, had given me a tolerable idea of the state of affairs and of the directions in which reforms had been deemed necessary, I was most anxious to do nothing till I shall have had some personal experience by actually administering the State, and seen and felt my way to the reforms, which had been deemed necessary from time to time.

There was in existence a well organized system of Courts for the administration of Civil and Criminal justice, but the people said they had "no justice." There was a Department of Public Works, specially created in place of the old, to carry out works with promptitude and honesty, but the cry of "plunder" was everywhere. There was a New Police dressed up quite like the British Constabulary, but the people would not confide in them, and fled from the "red coats" as if from their tormentors. The prevailing revenue system was that known as the "sharing system," to which in theory there is no superior as between the ryot, the cultivator, and the sirkar, the landlord; and yet the cry was "plunder and extortion everywhere." The questions therefore for study were, "were the popular opinions well grounded: and if so, were they due to the system, or to the men, who administered it, or to both."

Moreover the state of the finances was critical, and even if reforms seemed necessary, there were not the means to set on foot, such as involved considerable additional expenditure.

Efforts were, therefore, chiefly confined to introduce such measures as involved no expenditure, and to introduce better agency in the personnel of the administration.

The results achieved in these directions will now be noticed.

His Excellency himself set the first example of reform in his own Court—first, by changing the hours of the Appeal Court at the sacrifice of personal convenience; secondly, by making it a rule to write and declare the judgments as soon as the cases were heard, instead of allowing judgments to stand over to be pronounced on the last day of the month; thirdly, by allowing the Court to be held by two Judges in his absence. These charges produced a very favourable impression on the minds of the public.

The first reform which Mr. Sashia has introduced has been in the administration of justice. He has also taken in hand the improvement of the land revenue system. The prevailing system is called. "Amani," Mr. Sashia Sastri gives the following account of it:

A very large portion of the lands under cultivation, and believed to be of the best kind were held under this system. *The property in this lands vests in the Sirkar.* The ryots were in most cases tenants-at-will, and theoretically could be turned off without their consent. The transfer or sale of such lands was void at law. The crops raised by the ryot (at his own expense generally, and at times assisted with seed grain from Sirkar) was shared half and half, between him and the Sirkar. He removed his share to his own house, and carried the Sirkar share to his granaries provided for the purpose, and if there were none kept it in his own house either in trust, or under the lock and key of the responsible Sirkar village officers. These were the main features of the system, and to one who knows no more, they must appear on their face to be very just indeed. What could be more fair? The ryot and Sirkar, by sharing the crop equally, shared the vicissitudes of season and market.

During a life long career of service I have had opportunities of watching closely the working of the sharing system in all its varied forms in many Districts of the Madras Presidency as well as in Travancore, and my experience has been of an interestingly sad kind. To tell the whole tale would occupy more space than would be justifiable in this place.

Mr. Sashia Sastri has already begun to reform this system, so prolific of abuse. He has substituted money payment. The quiet energy with which he is reforming the abuses in this little State deserves high commendation.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE HAVE much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following letter of the Government of India regarding the Durga Puja holidays:

No. 458.

Government of India—Department of Finance and Commerce Accounts and Finance.

To the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Fort William, the 20th January, 1880.

Sir,—In my letter No. 3045, dated 4th October, 1879, I communicated to you the decision of the Governor-General in Council, that effect should be given to the recommendations by the majority of the committee convened last year by the Government of Bengal to consider the question of the annual holidays to be allowed in public offices on the occasion of the Doorga Pujah as follows:—

(1) that only the four days required for strictly religious purposes should be close holidays in the public offices;

(2) that if the fourth religious day fall on a Friday, the public offices should not re-open until the following Monday;

(3) that the Public Debt Office, the Treasury, the Currency Office, the Money Order Office, the Stamp Office, and all the Pay Offices, should be closed on these four days only; but that in other public offices, the heads of departments should have discretion to give leave to their subordinates for the whole or any part of the twelve days, provided the current work of their offices is carried on.

2. Since his return to the Presidency, His Excellency the Governor-General has found reason to doubt whether the Government of India allowed sufficient weight to the inconvenience which will be entailed by the enforcement of this decision upon the Hindu community of Calcutta, and some other parts of Bengal, and to the strength of the popular attachment to these annual holidays.

3. On the other hand, His Excellency is disposed to think that he may have underrated the extent to which the complaints of the mercantile community may be obviated, or at least mitigated, by careful arrangements in the several public offices to meet their requirements.

4. Accordingly the Governor-General in Council has determined to cancel the decision recorded in my letter of the 4th October, and to adopt the conclusion advocated in the 22nd paragraph of Mr. Cockerell's letter No. 2809, dated 12th September, namely, that the observance of the Doorga Poojah holidays in the public offices in Calcutta shall continue as heretofore.

5. But His Excellency in Council relies upon the Government of Bengal to take precaution in respect to the public offices subordinate to it, to reduce to a minimum the inconvenience and loss which the mercantile community must, in consequence of this determination, continue to bear, and which he trusts that they will not object to bear out of consideration for the interest and wishes of their numerous Hindu fellow citizens.

6. The Governor General in Council will enquire what arrangements to meet the convenience of the mercantile community are possible in the offices subordinate to the Government of India.—I have, &c.,

R. B. CHAPMAN.
Secretary to the Government of India.

When the Government says that the observance of the Durga Puja holidays in the public offices in Calcutta shall continue as heretofore, it means that the vacation will continue equally in force throughout Bengal. We again thank Lord Lytton for this gracious concession. We hope the mercantile community will accept the decision of the Government of India in the same spirit in which it has been conceived.

WE ARE glad to learn that the Secretary of State has administered a heavy dose of quinine to cure the fever of codification, which has seized our Law Member. Lord Cranbrook, it would seem, has become alive to the mischievous activity of the Indian legislature, and has determined to put a stop to it. The Bills, which the Commission recommend, will not we hear be proceeded with.

ANOTHER Indian veteran has passed away! We are exceedingly sorry to record the death of Babu Tarinychurn Banerjea, which melancholy event took place on Sunday the 25th ultimo. He was suffering for about ten years from complicated diseases, and the patience and resignation he shewed in his sufferings were really wonderful. He was a distinguished pupil of the Hindu College, and was one of the first Deputy Collectors under Lord William Bentinck's Act, but ill-health compelled him to resign the service soon. He was one of the first elected Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta under the old system, and on

the formation of the Corporation in 1863 he was appointed one of its members. He used to take an active interest in municipal affairs, and also to sit on the Police Bench regularly till he was disabled by disease. Although not a professional lawyer, he possessed a sound legal head and was an expert in drawing up law papers. Many professional lawyers used to take advice from him. His services were often sought in private arbitration cases, and in this way he used to do great good to his countrymen. He was amiable in manners, kind-hearted in disposition, and gentlemanly in thought and feeling. His loss is mourned by a large circle of relatives and friends.

THE SUKKUR-QUETTA STATE RAILWAY will remain a grand monument of Sir Richard Temple's energy. In his minute on the construction of this Railway SirRichard says: "In the first place the broad gauge surface line has advanced 67 miles from its starting point at Rukh near Sukkur, besides which length there have been 10 miles of sidings laid down—including formation of roadway and laying down of rails—and is now in the heart of the Cutchi Desert. It is about 55 miles from Mithri opposite the mouth of the Bolan, and about 69 miles from Sibi. At first, and for some time in the Indus Valley, its progress was at the rate of one mile a day. But now the rate of one mile and a half a day has been established. It was hoped that by present time a rate of two miles daily would be established; but this has not been found practicable owing to the great difficulty of watering arrangements for so large an establishment (3,500 men and 1,500 animals) in the midst of the desert, many miles away from any natural water-supply. It is intended, however, to make some further arrangements calculated to accelerate the progress to two miles daily." The success of this Railway is really a marvel.

THE LAST *Gazette of India* contains the results of the B. A. Examination in the Calcutta University. One hundred and twelve students have passed in the last B. A. Examination, of whom 7 were in the first division, 36 in the 2nd and 69 in the third division. The first B. A. student comes from the Patna College and the next three from the Presidency College; 23 Presidency College students have passed in all the three divisions. We hear that grace marks were this year freely awarded at the instance of Mr. Croft.

THE NAGAS are again troublsome. They attacked an outlying tea plantation, and killed a Tea planter and some coolies. The Government we are glad to observe are taking prompt steps for the repression of the Nagas. Sir Steuart Bayley has left Calcutta for Assam. The telegrams from the Press Commissioner will be found in another column.

THE ATHENÆUM announces that at a recent meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain, a paper was read, contributed by Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, "on the Age of the caves of Ajanta," in which he urged—first, "that the figures with flowing dresses and conical hats were Persians; secondly, that the chief personages in the drinking scenes were Bactrians; and thirdly, that the scenes represented phases of Indian life in the 1st century B. C. or A. D. founding his conclusions on the inscriptions existing in some of the caves, and adding at the same time many details with reference to the individual cases at this place." The paper is a reply to certain strictures of Mr. Fergusson on an essay of the Doctor published in the Journal of the Bengal Asiatic Society. The controversialists are well matched, the one is *facile princeps* in the department of Indian antiquities, and the other enjoys high European reputation, and it is to be hoped that the friction of their opposite opinions will serve to bring to light the true character of the interesting frescoes and caves about which they are writing. Their standing grounds however are so different that they cannot see the subject in the same light. Dr. Mitra relies upon authentic inscriptions, which he thinks to be of the greatest value in the elucidation of ancient dates, while Mr. Fergusson on certain canons of architecture, which he has himself developed after a necessarily restricted study of Indian architectural remains. It is easy to perceive under the circumstances who has the greater advantage in the controversy.

THE STREAM of marriage gaieties is flowing in Calcutta. On Monday last there was a natch party at the house of Raja Komulkrishna Bahadur of Sobha Bazar in celebration of the weddings of his two sons. It was graced by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, His Lordship the Chief Justice, and several other distinguished European gentlemen. There was also a fair sprinkling of ladies. The *elite* of the Native community were also present, among whom we were glad to notice His Highness the Maharaja of Ulwar and several Nepal notabilities. Besides the usual natch there was a theatrical by a professional corps of this city. The street was illuminated with electric light, and Raja Rajendra Bahadur, who occupies the house opposite, cooperated by lighting his noble mansion with cherag lamps. Raja Komulkrishna Bahadur spared no pains and expense for the entertainment of his guests. The house was decorated with evergreems and plants and beautifully illuminated with gas. A sumptuous sit-down supper was provided by the Great Eastern Hotel Company, to which full justice was done by his European guests. The Raja, though suffering from rheumatic pains, was all attention to his guests, who as far as we could perceive left highly pleased with what they saw and heard. These reunions of Europeans and Natives on a common ground are eminently calculated to promote good feeling between the two classes.

THE HON'BLE SYUD AHMED has introduced into the Governor General's Council a Bill for the appointment of persons to the office of Kazi. He made an excellent speech in introducing the Bill. The object of the Bill is simply to provide for the appointment of Kazis by Government, leaving their position and duties, whatever they may be, just as they now are, and conferring no judicial or other powers on them; and, in order to prevent any possible misapprehension as to the object of the proposed Bill, a saving clause will be added to that effect.

THE ANNUAL BANQUET of the Trades' Association, which was held on Friday last, was a great success. The Town Hall was tastefully decorated with evergreens and flags, and about two hundred gentlemen sat to dinner. Although it was our privilege as usual to partake of the feast of reason and flow of soul, we can state on the cheerful testimony of those, who did justice to the rich viands supplied, that the Great Eastern Hotel Company performed their part exceedingly well. There were several good speeches delivered on the occasion, which we propose to notice in our next. We may, however, remark that Mr. Clifford Brookes, who was in the chair, acquitted himself most creditably. There was an air of freedom and grace about him, which lent a charm to his utterances. The assembly did not break up till about 1 A. M. The last was the forty-ninth anniversary of the Trades' Association, but age has by no means affected its activity and utility. We wish it long life and continued prosperity.

THE FOLLOWING appeal has been addressed by the Lord Mayor of Dublin on behalf of the famine-stricken people of Ireland:

We have the sad and disagreeable duty of telling, through you, all who sympathise with the misfortunes of our people, that the distress in Ireland has assumed fearful proportions, and that, unless extraneous aid be forthcoming in a liberal manner, death by starvation must overtake many.

Every effort is being made in Ireland itself, as well by local as by central relief committees, to mitigate the calamity, but owing to the general commercial and agricultural depression and to the widespread character of the distress, those efforts have proved totally inadequate to meet the crisis.

We therefore appeal with confidence to all Irishmen and all friends of Ireland for aid in our efforts to save the people from destruction. We feel that we have only to make known the sad position of the Irish people to ensure everywhere a generous response.

We would point out the constitution of our committee, which comprises representative men of the highest character and position in the country, and of all creeds and positions, both as an assurance that this appeal is justified, and that any funds entrusted to us shall be distributed in the manner best calculated to meet the emergency.

We would beg of you to publish this appeal.

We hope a liberal response will be made from India. We are glad to observe that an example has been already set by Bombay.

THE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION at Ranaghat came off on Monday last. We are sorry that owing to other engagements we could not attend it, and as the account which we have received has come to hand too late, we are obliged to defer it till next week. The Exhibition was got up in the course of a month, and great credit is due to Babu Chundersikhur Banerjea, the energetic Deputy Magistrate in charge of the Sub-Division, for the success which crowned his efforts. Two excellent speeches were made by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Rowe. We hope the Exhibition will be repeated say once every three or every five years. An annual exhibition, which some seem to recommend, will not allow sufficient time for improvement.

WE DO NOT usually notice marriage ceremonies and processions, but the style in which the wedding of the son of Dr. Shourindra Mohun Tagore and nephew of the Hon'ble the Maharaja Joteendra Mohun Tagore was celebrated was so rich, so novel, and so tasteful that we make no hesitation in departing from our rule. On Wednesday and Thursday last natch parties were given at the family residence of the Maharaja. Pathuriaghatta Street from the Chitpore junction to the extreme corner of the Maharaja's house was lined with festoons of evergreens mounted with flags of different colours, and illuminated with electric light, a big star throwing off its bright effulgence in rainbow colors from the top of the Street. The quadrangle in the house was a perfect picture; the decorations were indeed exquisite; the festoons interwoven with flowers of various colors, the silken hangings embroidered with gold, the iron pillars covered with artificial gold and silver bands, the cloth of gold, which served as throne for the bridegroom, who was himself decked in a gorgeous and graceful costume, imparted to the whole scene a picturesque effect, which could be realized only by seeing it. But the grandest scene was the marriage procession on last Saturday night. The whole route from the Maharaja's house in Pathuriaghatta Street *via* Chitpore Road and Beadon Street to the bride's residence in Manictollah Street was lined with festoons of evergreens and flowers, mounted with pretty flags of variegated colors, the beauty of which was enhanced when flashes of the electric light fell upon them. The procession did not consist of the old fashioned parapharnalia of paper mountains, *mourphankis*, talk lights &c., but was got up in a new and exquisite style. At the head of the procession was the crest of the Maharaja with the inevitable dhole and at an interval the Roshunchowki, then an English band, with flags on silver sticks waving length-way, next a group of men with silver spears, then a military band, again a group of men with silver maces, next another military band, then a company of fifty sepoys, belonging to the Maharaja, with drawn swords, next quite a huge phalanx a-foot of the *elite* of the native community, headed by Maharajas, Rajas and other notabilities, and lastly the bridegroom in his princely attire, seated in a richly decorated carriage, drawn by four milk-white horses with European postillions on their backs, the carriage surrounded with gold umbrellas, punkas, and chamurs, and the whole length of the procession lighted with five-lamp chandeliers carried on sticks in addition to the electric light with which the whole route was illuminated. It was a scene not seen before in Calcutta. There was a sea of heads all along the route. Balconies and house-tops were crowded by hundreds and thousands; it is said that some houses were rented for the nonce by sight-seers; on the road there was scarcely an inch of ground not covered with footsteps; in fact half Native Calcutta was out on the occasion; even zenana ladies secreted in carriages went out to see the sight; the crowd resembled what we witnessed on the night of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales' pageant. The design of the procession did much credit to the æsthetic faculty and refinement of the Maharaja and his accomplished brother Dr.

Shourindra Mohun Tagore. Their urbanity also contributed not a little to the success of the festivities. There was not a single hitch in the whole affair. The Police did their work well. They held the route against carriages whilst the procession passed and maintained order successfully; there was not a single accident. The Tagores are well known as the leaders of taste and fashion in this city, and Maharaja Joteendra Mohun Tagore and his good brother may justly feel proud of the brilliant success they have achieved on this auspicious occasion. God bless the bridegroom and the bride!

TELEGRAMS.

(From the Press Commissioner).

Calcutta, January 25.—Mulla Khalil, after the defeat of his band near Dakka, has joined another section of the Mohmunds. His people are reported to have dispersed much discouraged by their losses. The Khugianis have declined to follow the Mullahs, saying that every gathering to attack British troops has eventually ended in damaging failure. No fresh news from the Lughman Valley. Asmatulla is still in the same country attended by small personal following.

26.—*Kabul, January* 25.—It is reported by traders from beyond Bamian that Gholam Hyder is in Mazari Sharif. From Logar it is reported that numbers of men have collected and are collecting. There is an unconfirmed rumour to the effect that Mahomed Jan was killed on 22nd near Ghazni by the Hazaras. Nothing new from the direction of the Mohmands. Colonel Limond with a working party is at Daronta making a road over the spur of the Siah Koh range, that juts down to the right bank of the Kabul river by the gorge. In Lughman the Tajik population and the Khans are reported quiet. Kameh is also quiet.

27.—*From Kabul.*—Further reports of the gathering at Ghazni reach Kabul. Disbanded soldiery to the number of 500 or 600 are said to have joined it from Logar. All is quiet in the Khaibar. Mulla Khalil is reported to have gone to Bajour. There are rumours of disturbances among the tribes near Kelat-i-Ghilzai, and that they are contemplating an attack on it.

28.—*Kabul, January 27th.*—General Roberts visited Lataband on the 26th. Orders have been issued for every post to be provisioned for a month, and to have always three weeks' supplies in hand. Wheeled artillery can now go to Jagdalak. The road will soon be made practicable throughout to Kabul. The Sappers are improving a bad bit between Seh Baba and Lataband. Supplies are being brought in sufficient to meet all demands. No change in the position during the last few days' either at Ghazni or other places.

28.—From Silchar information has been received that on the night of the 27th a raid was made on the Baladhun tea garden by Nagas or Kukis. The buildings were all burnt. The manager, Mr. P. Blyth, was killed. The District Superintendent of Police has proceeded to the place with a party of thirty police.

29.—*Kabul, January* 28.—The attitude of the Logaris is reported still unfavourable. The assembly of Ghilzais about Shahpir near Khelat-i-Ghilzai is said to have dispersed. A number of men from the southern Ghilzai country are said to have gone to Ghazni.

29.—The last reports from Silchar state that the raiders on Baladhun were Nagas, but it is doubtful what Nagas. Nine coolies were killed, besides the manager. All the houses were destroyed. Mr. Savi, with 120 men of the 34th, and Kachar Police, left Kohima on the 24th, and should reach Asaloo on the 31st, and, if the raiders are Nagas, should take them in rear. Mr. Savi's party, and a party under Lieutenant Macgregor, which has gone to Paplongmai and the Kutcha Naga country, should make the retreat of the raiders difficult. Sir Stuart Bayley will reach Cachar on the 2nd February.

29.—From Silchar it is stated that the District Superintendent of Police has found two more bodies of coolies at Baladhun, and one wounded. No further details known. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar will reach Baladhun on the 30th. He has arranged, with the military for outposts at the Gardens west of Baladhun. He considers additional troops not necessary. The Military and police under Mr. Savi are moving towards our frontier from the Naga Hills. The Political Agent has been requested to expedite them.

30. General Bright moved into the Lughman valley on the 28th towards Katzai Aziz Khan, and occupied the forts of Futteh Muhamad Khan and Asmatulla Khan, both found deserted. The headmen of villages are coming in to his camp. Asmatulla has moved to Killa Mirali Khel. All Maliks of East end of valley expected in camp. Before entering the Lughman valley, General Bright issued a proclamation stating his intention to all Maliks and inhabitants, and that he would not punish those remaining quiet in their villages, or coming in, or refraining from hostile acts. He called for supplies on payment and invited all chiefs and headmen to present themselves to him with the Governor of Lughman. From Kabul it is reported that Muhamad Jan means to attack again shortly. He is still trying to raise the Kohistanis and Logaris. All is quiet in Kandahar, Kelat-i-Ghilzai, and the Pushtireed Districts. Herat reports say that Ayub has failed to induce a portion of the Kabuli troops to march to Farrah, they decline to separate, and say they will go home, unless work and pay are provided. The health of the troops good, except for pneumonia.

31.—General Bright has reached Futtehbad in the Lughman valley without casualty. A reconnaissance was made on the 29th. Good road found. Camp moves on the 31st to better ground further on. Fords will be thoroughly examined. Valley very fertile, especially across the river in Loughman proper. Hamed Khan, brother of Assmatulla Khan, has come in, and all the people seem friendly. Forage plentiful.

From Silchar, 30th January.—No fresh news during the day. Three wounded coolies reached the station. They and other people report the attack as most sudden. No doubt the raiders were Nagas. Rumours of attack on Jarighat not authenticated. The Deputy Commissioners had left for Baladhun. A later telegram states that confidence was being restored: the villagers were returning to their villages. The Panjis found declared to be Angami. Five more dead coolies found.

COMMERCIAL.

(FROM OUR COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Saturday, 31st January, 1880.

Our market during the week terminating on the 31st January has been quiet and transactions were confined to a limited extent.

IMPORTS.

There has hardly been any noticeable change during the week under review for this market and prices remained almost unaltered.

Greys—Found less disposition in buyers to operate for large quantities. Transactions were confined to loom requirements.

White, T Red and Printed goods—Have continued steady and transactions took place without any further improvement in prices.

Yarns.—both imported and local continued to find buyers at previous rates but for small quantities.

EXPORTS.

Our produce markets have neither shown any improvement, on the contrary business has been at a stand-still, owing to want of supplies and high prices ruling for some descriptions.

Indigo.—There was no public sale during the week and very small quantity of the crop 79 and 80 remaining unsold.

Teas.—On the 29th instant 4405 chests were disposed of at the public sales held by the under-mentioned Brokers.

W Moran and Co.	...	1477 Chests.
J. Thomas and Co.	...	1660 "
Corvett and Co.	...	307 "
W. S. Cresswell and Co.	...	465 "
T. Watson and Co.	...	496 "

at fair prices.

Jute.—In consequence of supplies having fallen off and stocks reduced to a very low figure of 42,000 mds. or thereabouts against 130,000 mds. same time last year, transactions have almost become *nil* and previous rates are well sustained.

Linseeds.—The season being at its end and stocks being exhausted very high prices are demanded for the remaining small portion and until the new crop comes into the market business will not be resumed.

Wheat.—Small transactions in the old crop at former prices.

Rice.—Limited transactions: Table sorts—

Seeta	...	200 tons	4-12 @ 4-14
Gross	...	500 "	3-14 @ 4-1
Ballam	...	7000 bags	2-14 @ 3-3
Kheeare	...	3000 "	2-6 @ 2-7-6
Raree	...	4000 "	2-8 @ 2-14

MONETARY.

Money continues cheap, there has been no further changes in the discount and interest at the Local Banks.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES AND JOINT-STOCK SHARES.

This market towards the latter end of the week experienced a slight better feeling in Joint-Stock Shares, *viz*, Howrahs, Bowreahs, I. G. S., and Coal Shares.

Government Securities remained quiet, the closing rates were—4 % 93

4½ % 101-2

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS	Rs.	A.	P
Dr. Ramkissen, Soneput	1	4	0
Sholapore N. G. Library	13	4	0
Secretary Cowel Bazar Reading Club	13	4	0
Baroda State Library	3	4	0
Rai Gobindpursadjee, Esq, Jodhpore	13	2	0
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Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—*January* 28, 1880.

GENERAL.—Mr. G. Godfrey, Assistant Commissioner in Assam, whose services have been placed at the disposal of this Government, is appointed to act, until further orders, as a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, and is posted to Howrah.

Baboo Nilmoney Coosr, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Lohardugga, is allowed leave for one month, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it,

Mr. H. S. Beadon, Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Balasore, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the Second Grade of Magistrates and Collectors, *vice* Mr. T. Norman, with effect from the date on which he received charge of his office.

Baboo Boloram Dass is appointed temporarily to be Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade at Cuttack for employment on land registration work, with effect from the date on which he joined that appointment.

The orders of the 31st December last, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 7th instance, appointing Baboo Boloram Bose to be temporarily a Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade at Cuttack for employment on land registration work, are cancelled.

Mr. R. H. Wilson, Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue is allowed furlough for twenty months, under Section 21, Chapter IV of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 6th March next.

Mr. R. C. Dutt, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Cutwa Division of the Burdwan district, is transferred to Bankoora.

Mr. C. P. Caspersz, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Chittagong, is appointed to have charge of the Cutwa Division of the Burdwan district.

Advertisements.

SITUATIONS.

Wanted a native correspondence clerk for a large Office at Jamalpore. He must be a B.A. of the Calcutta University and write correct and idiomatic English with facility. Salary to begin with Rs. 60 with prospects on giving satisfaction. Apply up to 5th February to Chief Auditor East Indian Railway Company, No. 22, Dalhousie Square.

WANTED a Graduate of the Calcutta University as Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Preference given to a Latin Scholar. Salary Rs. 50 per mensem, for 12 hours per week teaching. Apply to the Principal Cathedral Mission College.

WANTED as Second-Master for the Cathedra Mission Collegiate School, a B.A. who knows Latin Salary Rs. 40 per month, with prospects of rise. Apply to the Principal of the Cathedral Mission College or to the Head-Master of the School, 33 Amherst Street, Calcutta.

WANTED a professional Surveyor and Leveller (for 3 months only). Salary Rs. 75 including travelling allowance. Candidates to submit their applications to the undersigned with copies of testimonials on or before the 10th February 1880.

RADHA MADHAV BASU,
Vice-Chairman,
Road Cess Committee, Hazaribagh.

Hazaribagh,
The 27th January 1880.

NOTICE UNDER ACT I. (B.C.) OF 1878.

Notice is hereby given that all persons carrying on business in Calcutta and liable to the Bengal License Tax must apply for and take out license for the current official year (1879 80) before the 14th Instant. Failing to do so they will render themselves liable to a heavy penalty and will be proceeded against according to law.

M. R. SHIRCORE,
License Officer.

Calcutta, Municipal Office,
The 2nd February 1880.

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Civil Court Manual (being 3rd edition of "Civil P. Code and other Acts"), much improved and enlarged. The amendments made by Act XII. 1879 are embodied in the Civil P. Code, Rs. 8 (by post, 8-8). Table of contents on application.

Apply to Mr. Cranenburgh, Police Court, or 4 Shibtola Lane, Calcutta.

NOTICE.

G. R. Naylor, M.D., M. R. C. S., late of Chitpure Dispensary, available for private practice. Advice gratis 10½ to 11½ A. M. 256, Bowbazaar Street.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

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HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ROXBURGHE, K.T.

Vice-Presidents.

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF SUTHERLAND, K.G.
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, K.G.

Report by the Directors

PRESENTED TO THE
SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COMPANY,
Held at Edinburgh on Friday 4th April, 1879.

The Directors submitted the following Report on the business done by the Company during the year which closed on the 31st December, 1878.

Life Business.

During the year there were issued 1034 Policies, assuring £1,034,651, the new Premiums on which amount to £33,,022-17-3.

The Claims which occurred during the year, including 20 Endowments, were 262 in number, arising under 322 Policies, and the sums which became payable on account of these amounts, with Bonus additions, to the sum of £220,243-10, after deducting reassurances.

The Life Assurance Fund now amounts to £2,852,566-11-3, being £140,689-19-8 above what it was on 31st December, 1877. The whole of this fund is separately invested, and, by Act of Parliament, set aside to meet the claims under that Department of the Company's business.

Annuity Business.

In the Annuity Department 55 Bonds were issued securing the sum of £2,969-0-6 yearly, and for which, the Company received the sum of £28,892-9-4.

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CHIEF OFFICE FOR INDIA.
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R. A. Lyall, Esq. (Lyall, Rennie & Co.,) Merchant.
E. T. Roberts, Esq., Solicitor.
Robert Steel, Esq., Merchant.
General Agents for India: ROBERTS, MORGAN & CO., No. 1, Hastings Street, Calcutta.

N. B.—Persons assured with Profits in this Company are not liable as shareholders or members of the Company.

NOTICE.

Phrases and Idioms by Krishna Chandra Roy, Part I. 4 annas, Part II. 5 annas, Postage ½ anna. To be had at the Sanskrit Press Depository, Calcutta.

MAHOMEDAN LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Sixteenth Annual *Conversazione* of the above Society will be held at the Town Hall on Thursday the 12th February 1880, at 9 P. M.

ABDOOL LUTIEF,
Secretary.

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To be had at the Sanskrit Press Depository, the Canning Library and other principal Book-sellers of Calcutta.

Notice.

Zemindary Management and Accounts by Babu Jogendra Nath Bhuttacharjya M.A. B.L. Legal Member of H. H. the Moharaja of Burdwan. The book gives a thorough insight into the management of Zemindary business and is therefore well adapted for the education of the sons of Zemindars and persons connected with the management of landed property.

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Lime Supply for Bengal.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the leases of the undermentioned Lime-Quarries situate in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Assam, will be put up to AUCTION sale at the office of the Deputy-Commissioner of Sylhet at noon on the 15th March 1880.

The leases will be for three years and seven months commencing from 1st April 1880 and ending 31st October 1883.

Not more than three leases will be permitted to be purchased in one interest.

Any quarry not worked, *i. e.*, not worked to turn out more than 40,000 maunds per annum, will be liable to resumption, and the Government will be at liberty to work such resumed quarry by direct agency.

The rent will be payable half-yearly in advance.

Further conditions will be duly notified at the time of sale.

No.	Names of quarries.	Where situate.
		Jaintia Hills.
1	Nongthalong Poonjee.	*North.*—By Padoo and Pamtadong Poonjees. *South.*—By boundary of Sylhet district. *East.*—By old road leading from the plains to Amwie Poonjee. *West.*—By Moonghat river and Borseel.
2	Moorali Cherra ..	*North.*—By Sootang Poonjee. *South.*—By northern boundary of Rowai lime-quarry. *East.*—By Looba or Looke river. *West.*—By Western limit of lands appertaining to Moorali Poonjee.
3	Roopnath ...	*North.*—As far as limestone exists northward within lands pertaining to the village of Roopnath. *South.*—By boundary of Sylhet district. *East.*—By Ooloo Cherra river. *West.*—By old road leading to Amwie Poonjee from the plains.
4	Lama Pooshee ...	*North.*—By Lakadong. *South.*—By boundary of Rowai limestone quarry. *East.*—By western boundary of the lands pertaining to Morali Poonjee. *West.*—By Moonghat river and Borseel.
		Malai Soh-mot State.
		Khasi Hills.
5	Nokria Cherra ...	*North.*—By south bank of Majdoora. *South.*—By Pandendish jungle. *East.*—By Mashim Khasia's garden. *West.*—By Shia Sing Khasia's garden.
		Maharam State.
		Khasi Hills.
6	RamsemdemRajke	*North.*—By Chapagar. *South.*—By Pook Cherra. *East.*—By Kalaram Rai Cherra. *West.*—By Hurrin Tilla Dhul.
		Bhowal State.
		Khasi Hills.
7	Bhowal Cherra ...	*North.*—By Chota Teekar Tilla. *South.*—By Kala Pani, *alias* Pukri Blei. *East.*—By Mongla-mora Tilla. *West.*—By Cherra Khowri Cherra
		Maodon
		Khasi Hills
8	Ka Long Long ...	*North*—By Maw Ngein *South*—By Chillai Cherra *East*—By Umjinden Cherra *West*—By Waiblei and Chilla Cherra
		Maharam State
		Khasi Hills
9	Tangla ...	*North*—By Komoni Teekor as far as limebeds exist *South*—By Pak Cherra *East*—By Dhaymalia river *West*—By Kalaram Rai Cherra
		Maharam and Maiong
		Khasi Hills
10	Manai Cherra ...	*North*— *South*— *East*— } By forest and jungle lands pertaining to Maharam *West*—By Jadukata, *alias* Pona-thirth river
		Maodon
		Khasi Hills
11	Umjindem ...	*North*—By Lumrai-by-nem *South*—By Lum Tenget *East*—By Umiap *West*—By Umjindem Cherra
		Dwara Nongtyrmen
		Khasi Hills
12	Bor Syrmai ...	*North*—By Pan garden *South*—By Ka Lad-Luka *East*—By Lumdilong *West*—By Lum-raitruth
		Khasi Hills
13	Silai Cherra ...	*North*—By Lum-kharsproh *South*—By Um-sao-leim *East*—By Silai river *West*—Lumsdi-long
		Khyrim.
		Khasi Hills
14	Mokertilla ..	*East*—By the Moonghat river *West and North*— } By lands pertaining to Maoloon and Umshapiang, Poonjees *South*—By the Pyen river

W. F TROTTER,
Offg Deputy-Commissioner
Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

SHILLONG:
Deputy Commissioner's Office,
The 23rd December 1879.

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N. B.—This Key is not only a Key to Lambs Tales, but a Key to Shakespeare's FOUR GREAT PLAYS, and a hand-book of English idiomatic and colloquial phrases, and synonyms. The 1st February 1880,

☞ Moneyorders are to be made payable in the *Baranagore Branch Post Office only*, and *not in the Calcutta Head Post Office.*

NOTICE is hereby given that the monopoly right to quarry limestone, in the tracts bordering the Summessuri and the Moheskhali Rivers in the Garo Hills District, will be put up to public auction at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Tura, on the 15th March 1880, on the following conditions:—

1. The Summessuri and the Moheshkhali tracts will be sold separately and each tract will comprise the land lying within one quarter of a mile on both sides of each River.
2. The leases to be in force for 10 years, *viz.* from the 1st April 1880 to the 31st March 1890.
3. The upset annual rent for either lease will be 500 Rupees, the highest bidder will obtain the lease or leases.
4. A royalty of Rs. 20 per 1000 maunds of lime stone quarried will be paid by the lessee to Government. The rent will merge in the royalty.
5. The Menimum outturn of each quarry is fixed at 40,000 maunds of lime stone per annum.
6. The rent will be payable in half-yearly instalments in advance *viz* on the 1st April and the 1st October.
7. The leases will be liable to resumption if the above conditions are not complied with, or if quarring is not commenced, *bona fide*, within two years of the sale of the leases.

H. WEST,
Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills.
Deputy Commissioner's Office,
Tura, Garo Hills,
The 10th January, 1880.

NOTICE is hereby given that the monopoly right to quarry Coal, in the tracts bordering the Summessuri and the Moheshkhali Rivers in the Garo Hills District, will be put up to public auction at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Tura, on the 15th March 1880, on the following conditions:—

1. The Summessuri and the Moheshkhali tracts will be shold separately and each will comprise the land lying within one quarter of a mile on both sides of each River.
2. The leases to be in force for 10 years *viz.* from 1st April 1880 to the 31st March 1890.
3. The upset annual rent for either lease will be 500 Rupees, the highest bidder will obtain the lease or leases.
4. A royalty of 3 annas per 1000 tons of coal quarried will be paid by the lessee to Government. The rent will merge in the royalty.
5. The minimum outturn of each quarry is fixed at 10,000 maunds of coal per annum.
6. The rent will be payable in half-yearly instalments in advance *viz.* on the 1st April and 1st October.
7. The leases will be liable to resumption if the above conditions are not complied with, or if quarring is not commenced, *bona fide*, within two years of the sale of the leases.

H. WEST;
Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills.
Deputy Commissioner's Office,
Tura, Garo Hills,
The 10th January, 1880.

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Calcutta, 1st January 1880.

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